THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

FEBRUARY 1994

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

WCW

MAGAZINE™

MAXX PAYNE
STILL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE CHEERS

EXCLUSIVE MATCH-BY-MATCH COVERAGE OF 1993 HALLOWEEN HAVOC WCW

An End To Stylin' & Profilin'?

RIC FLAIR'S SOLEMN STARRCADE VOW:

"IF VADER BEATS ME, I'LL QUIT WRESTLING FOREVER!"

RON SIMMONS
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THE THIRD DEGREE:
RICKY STEAMBOAT

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"MEAN" GENE OKERLUND

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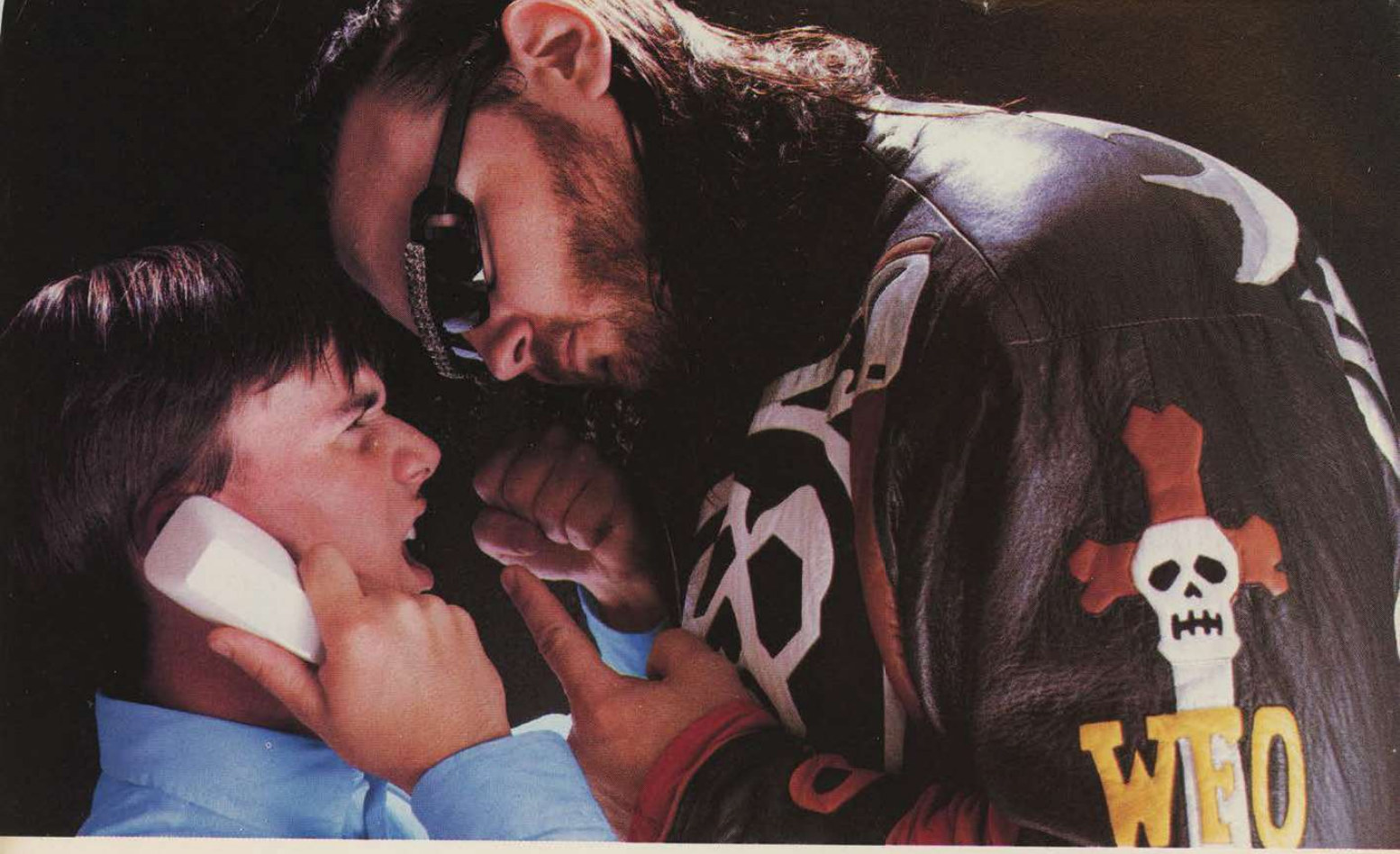

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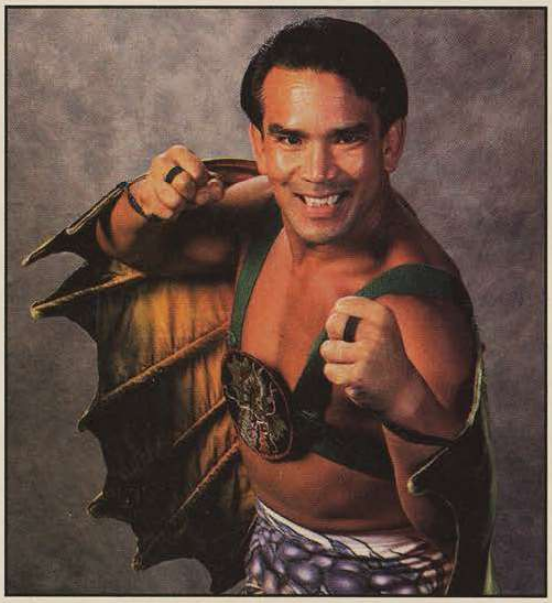

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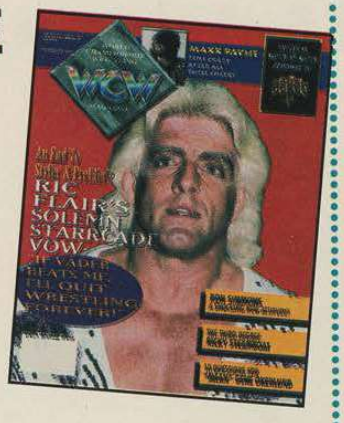

Much has been said about Ric Flair's Starrcade vow, and much more will continue to be said before December 27 rolls around. And whether "Nature Boy" Ric Flair wins or loses his WCW World title match against Vader, one fact is undeniably clear: The modern era of professional wrestling is coming to an end. * It may not happen at Starrcade '93, and it may not happen at Starrcade '94, but sooner or later—and probably not very much later, by wrestling standards—Ric Flair will no longer be a full-time active competitor. * Who will fill the void? * There is no question that Flair has been among the most dominant grapplers of the past decade. Compile a list of the 10 greatest wrestlers in history, and Flair's name is sure to be at or near the top. * Who will fill the void? * There is also no question that, for many more years than his opponents would care to recognize, Flair and WCW have been one and the same. The "Nature Boy" is as much a celebrity in Charlotte and Atlanta as, say, Donald Trump is a celebrity in New York and Atlantic City. * Who will fill the void? * It's a fascinating question, and one that brings to mind another: Can the void that will someday be left behind in the wake of Flair's departure from the ring be filled, or is Flair that rarest of rarities, a once-in-a-lifetime grappler who can never be matched? * Write to me in care of this magazine and let me know your thoughts. I'll print some of them in a future column. * See you next time.

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- DECEMBER 1991
Cover: Lex Luger
Poster: Sting
- JANUARY 1992
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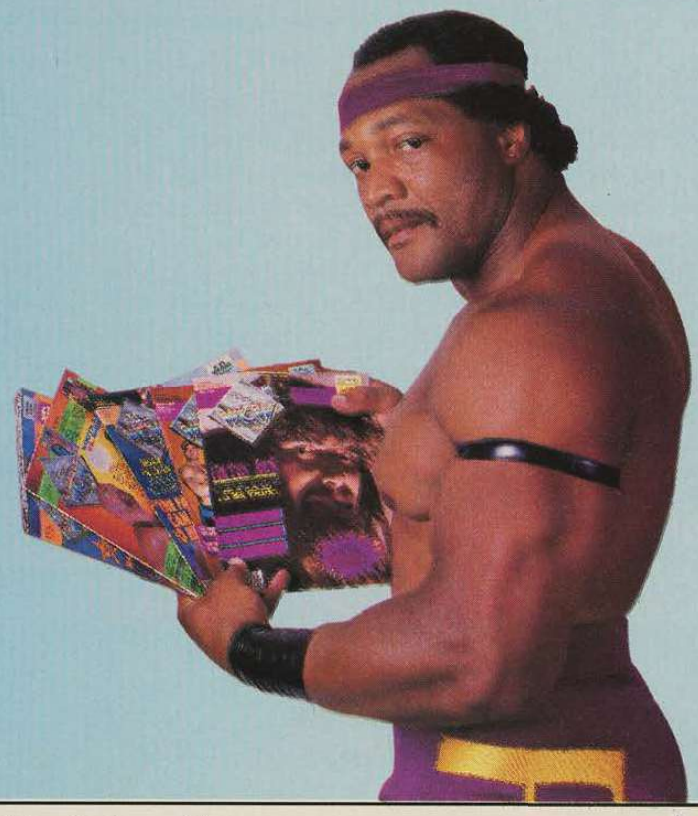
- DECEMBER 1993
Cover: Battle Bowl preview
Plus: Dustin, Horsemen, Clash
- JANUARY 1994
Interview special: Nastys,
Sting, Rude, Vader, Dustin

"All-American" Ron Simmons knows that every true WCW fan won't want to miss even one action-packed, color-filled issue of WCW Magazine. Order now—and complete your collection today!



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Newsline

NASTY EVEN *WITHOUT* MISSY!

Jerry Sags and **Brian Knobs** already had their bags packed for WCW's tour of Europe when the phone rang. **Missy Hyatt** was on the other end of the line, and ... well, we'll let Sags tell the rest of the story.

"She wanted to come with us," Sags said. "For weeks, she was telling us she was too tired to go to Europe, but then out of the blue she said she wanted to go shopping in London and drink beer in Munich.

"We told her to forget about it. It was too late. Besides, how the heck were we gonna have any fun in Europe with Missy following us around?"

Missy stayed home. **The Nasty Boys** stormed Europe on their own and tightened their grasp on the WCW World tag team belts. Sags and Knobs defeated **Ric Flair** and **Ricky Steamboat** in Bournemouth, U.K., and have impressively handled **2 Cold Scorpio** and **Marcus Alexander Bagwell**, the top contenders to the belts, at other stops on the European tour.

The Nastys faced a difficult task after regaining the belts from Bagwell and Scorpio at **Halloween Havoc**. The following morning, they boarded a plane for the U.K. Their flight touched down that evening in Cardiff, Wales, where the Nastys faced their first title defense the following evening.

"We've proven to everyone that The Nasty Boys are the butt-kickingest tag team in the world," Knobs said. "It don't matter if we're in Allentown, Pennsylvania, New Orleans, Louisiana, or some hole in Germany. These belts are staying with us."

WCW's European tour has been a showcase for several WCW stars. Ric Flair beat TV champion **Lord Steven Regal** in a non-title match in Essen, Germany, and the "Nature Boy" was gratified to hear the fans' cheers. There was also some controversy on the tour when **Maxx Payne** and **The Hollywood Blonds** lost a six-man tag team match in Blackburn, England, against Flair, Steamboat, and **Sting**. A miscue by Payne caused his team to lose the match and the Blonds weren't pleased.

"Payne looked like he didn't know what he was doing out there," Austin said.

Later in the week, Austin and Pillman were at war, marking the final breakup of the former World tag team champions.

Davey Boy Smith, a native of Manchester, England, was pumped-up about the tour. He defeated **Vader** by disqualification in Cardiff and Blackburn and vowed the WCW World title will soon be his.

"Maybe I'm not coming home with the belt," Davey Boy said, "but it's only a matter of time. Next tour, I'm bringing along some extra baggage."

Knobs & Sags: Nasty without Missy

An extra traveling case for the belt, perhaps?

DUSTIN VS. REGAL: TITLE VS. TITLE

Dustin Rhodes and **Lord Steven Regal**, two of WCW's newest champions, went head to head several times on WCW's European tour. Rhodes, the U.S. champion, and Regal, the TV champion, wrestled before sellout crowds each time.

Not surprisingly, Regal was booed even at WCW's five cards in the United Kingdom. The reaction to Regal was particularly *un*regal in London's famed Royal Albert Hall, where a group of fans chanted, "U.S.A.! U.S.A.!" in perfect British accent.

"This just goes to prove that in today's world, people don't care about *where* a man's from, they care about what's *inside* the man," Rhodes said. "The fans are angry that Regal keeps embarrassing them. Heck, he's embarrassed the British worse than the soccer team ever could! I think everyone in the U.K. feels the same way: They want to see Regal shut up."

Lord Steven: Not a very regal reception

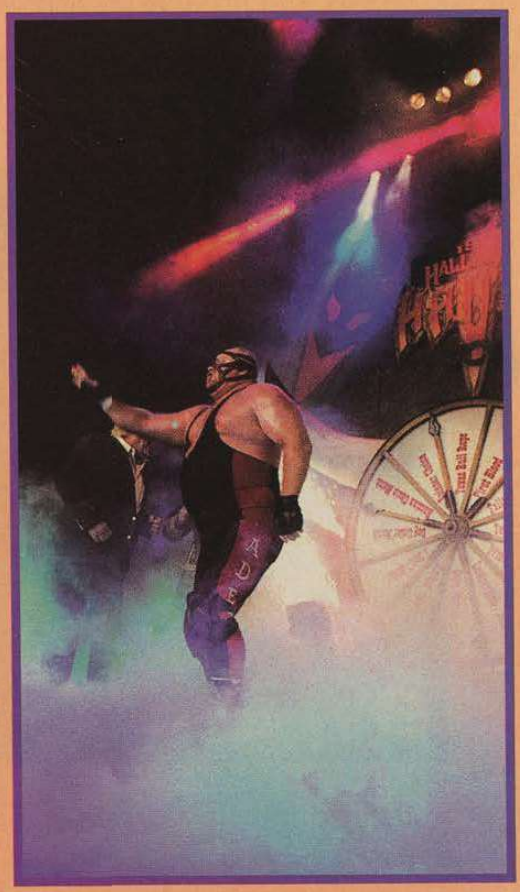
Regal looked forward to the tour as a chance to parade his newly won TV belt before his countrymen. But Regal's request for an audience with Queen Elizabeth was flatly denied, and he even had trouble getting into the new Electric Hollywood restaurant in Piccadilly Circus.

The reaction to Regal wasn't much friendlier in Germany. Fans there were annoyed by Regal's holier-than-thou attitude and booed him every time he stepped into the ring.

Lost in all this were Regal's fine performances in Europe. He is undoubtedly one of the finest scientific wrestlers in the world and proved it by battling Rhodes to a draw in their title vs. title match. Although Rhodes is scheduled to wrestle **Steve Austin** at Starrcade while Regal wrestles **Terry Taylor**, this feud figures to last well into next summer!

AROUND THE RING

Although nobody is doubting **Ric Flair's** solemn vow to retire if he loses to **Vader** at **Starrcade**, WCW fans who are hoping for the best, while preparing for the worst, should check out the **Michael Jordan** situation. In early November, less than three weeks after he retired, Jordan practiced with the Bulls, sparking talk that a comeback might not be far off. Insiders say Flair, who admires Jordan, wouldn't resist a comeback if he felt the need. But, for now, Flair is concentrating on beating Vader for his 11th World title ... After his controversial loss to Vader at **Halloween Havoc**, **Cactus Jack** skipped WCW's European tour to regroup for another attack on Vader. "This isn't through, not by a longshot," Jack said. "And it won't be over until **[Harley] Race** and Vader are in their graves. That thing Race stuck me with? I got something three times as powerful." It'll be interesting to see what Jack is talking about ... **"Mean" Gene Okerlund** made his WCW debut on the November 6 broadcast of *WCW Saturday Night*. Okerlund seemed calm as ever prior to the show, but later remarked, "I felt like I was a kid starting out on his college radio station. Fortunately, the people in the TV broadcast crew are so professional, it made things easy on me." **Jesse Ventura** on Okerlund's first night: "'Mean' Gene's an old pro, but I took it easy on him." ... **"Stunning" Steve Austin** is angry that his Starrcade match against **Dustin Rhodes** is a best-of-three-falls affair. "That's ridiculous," Austin said. "We wrestle one fall all year, then in the biggest match we change the rules. That's like playing nine innings of baseball all year and switching to 13 innings for the World Series. All I want is Rhodes one-on-one for 60 minutes, each man for himself. If I beat him once, that's good enough for me, and it should be good enough for everyone else." ... In the wake of the violent match between Vader and Cactus Jack at Halloween Havoc, WCW officials are once again considering banning **"Spin The Wheel, Make The Deal"** matches. "They're just too dangerous and there's no way of controlling them," said a WCW insider. "We're not sure they're in the best interests of the wrestlers or WCW." ◆

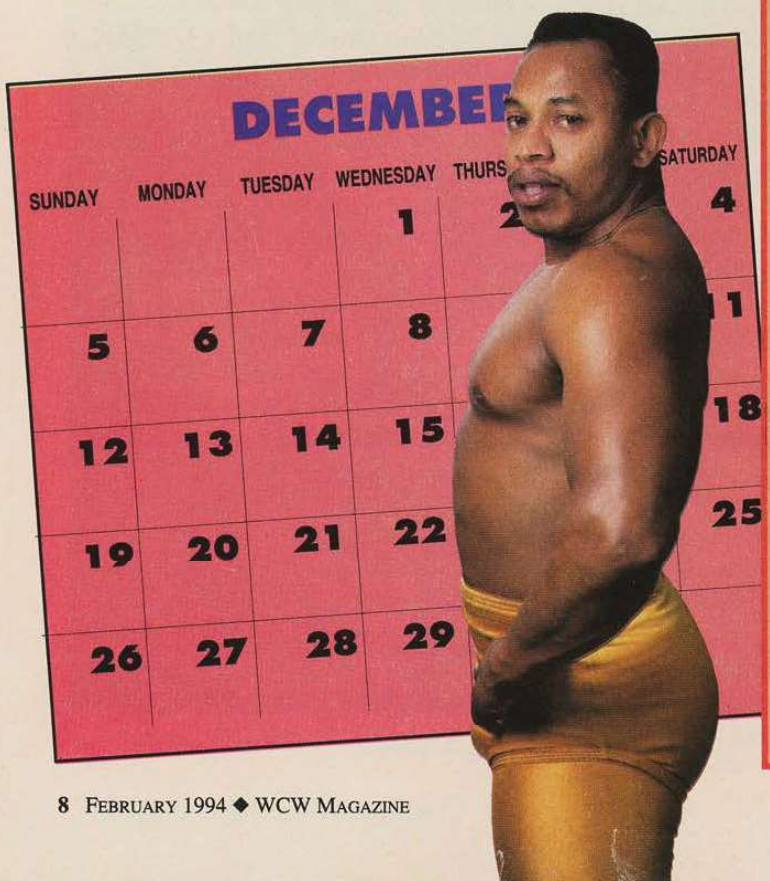


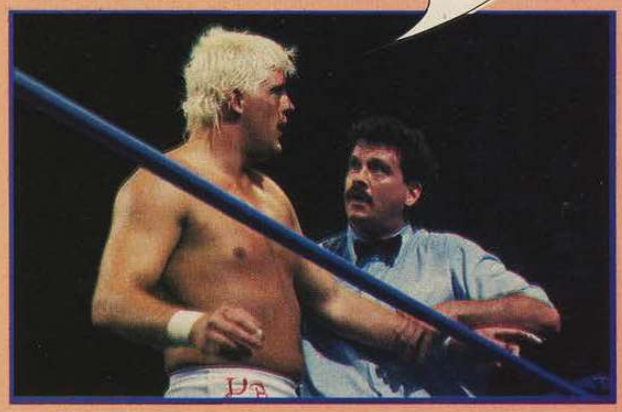
Will "Spin The Wheel" bouts soon be banned?

frontrow ringside

BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

December 5: Larry Zbyszko
December 7: Rick Rude
December 8: 2 Cold Scorpio
December 18: Steve Austin
December 19: Gene Okerlund
December 23: The Great Muta
December 26: Tex Slazenger
December 28: Tatsumi Fujinami





CRAZY CAPTIONS #21

When will this madness end? Who knows?! In any event, it's time for yet another Crazy Captions contest, in which you can win a free WCW T-shirt! All you have to do is come up with a witty caption for the photo you see here. What is referee Nick Patrick saying to Dustin Rhodes? You tell us!

The three best comments—along with the names of the writers—will appear in the April 1993 edition of WCW MAGAZINE, on sale February 8. Each of the three writers will receive a free WCW T-shirt, so don't forget to include your T-shirt size with your entry.

Address your responses to: "Crazy Captions #21" c/o WCW MAGAZINE, Box 956, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034.

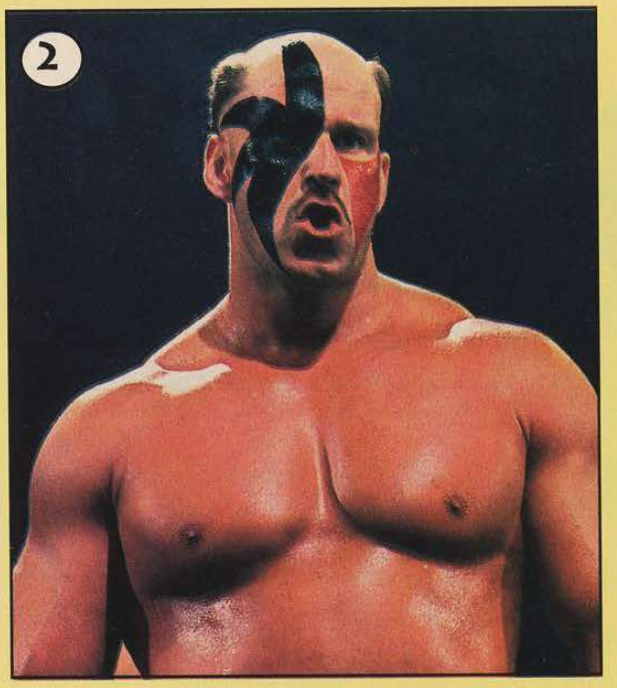
And now, here are the responses for contest #19, in which you were asked to provide a comment for Dustin Rhodes in the photo you see here:

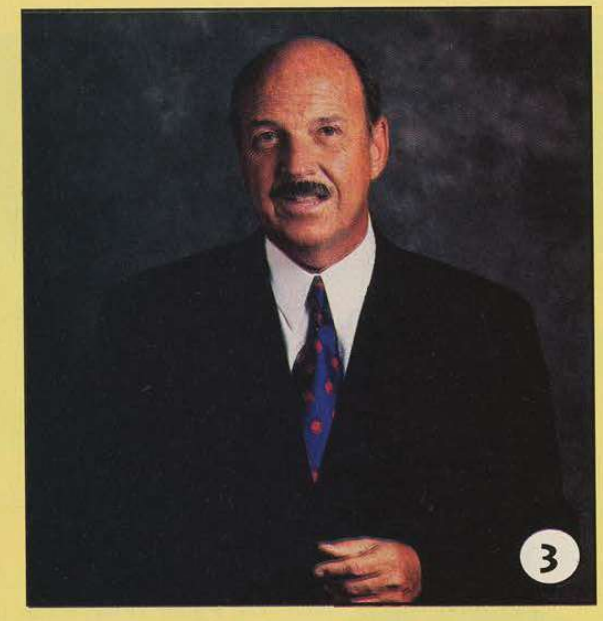
"Whoomp! Here it is!"—Tammy Pender, Goldsboro, North Carolina

"Who do you think is more ravishing, Rick Rude or me?"—Nancy Dockey, Kenmore, New York

"And Simon says put your hands on your head."—Heidi DeLoach, Claxton, Georgia

Next issue: Crazy Captions contest #22—and results from contest #20!





HAVE YOU HEARD?

10 hot topics that are keeping WCW fans talking this month:

1 STARRCADE The 10th anniversary of wrestling's greatest supercard may be the swan song of one of wrestling's greatest champions.

2 HAWK Is he in or out? The Road Warrior kept everyone guessing through Fall Brawl. But if the most recent Clash is any indication, he's in with a vengeance!

3 GENE OKERLUND Go get 'em, "Mean" Gene!

4 MAXX PAYNE & CACTUS JACK Now here's a wild tag team that can out-nasty The Nasty Boys!

5 RON SIMMONS All-American? Not in our eyes. Not until he straightens out his head, at least.

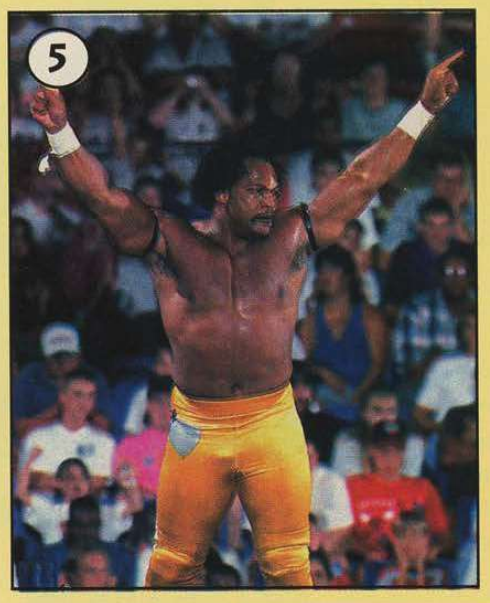
6 PILLMAN VS. AUSTIN With the luxury of 20-20 hindsight, we can say it was inevitable: No team members argue as much as they did without it having some effect.

7 WCW IN ORLANDO If you're planning to visit Disney World, try and do it at a time when WCW is holding television tapings there!

8 COL. PARKER Why don't we change his job description from manager to *mis*manager?!

9 SCORPIO & BAGWELL They know they have the talent to be champs. Now, with a redoubling of effort, they can get there again—and *stay* there!

10 VADER One word: awesome.



front row ringside

WHO AM I?

How many clues do you need to correctly guess the mystery wrestler's identity? Test your friends! Answer on page 12.

1: I grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

2: I attended Ferrum College in Virginia on a football/wrestling scholarship.

3: I formed a tag team with my childhood friend in 1986.

4: I first began wrestling in WCW in mid-1990.

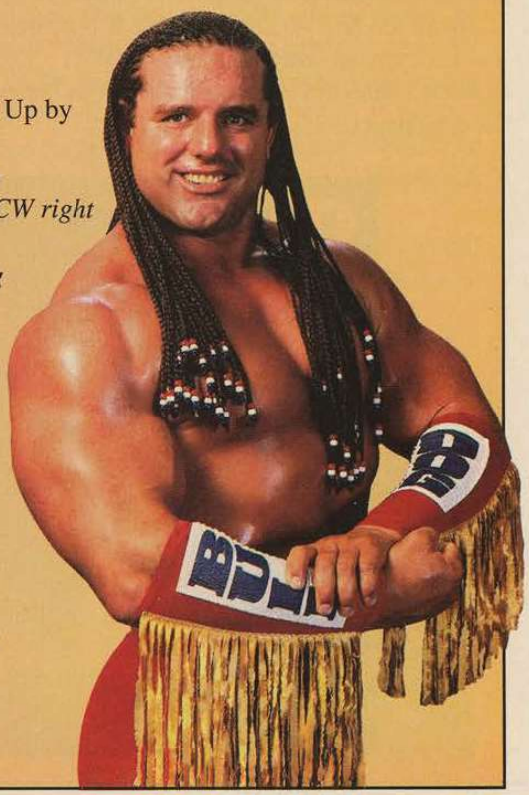
5: I'm not the blond one.

SUPERSTAR STATPAK

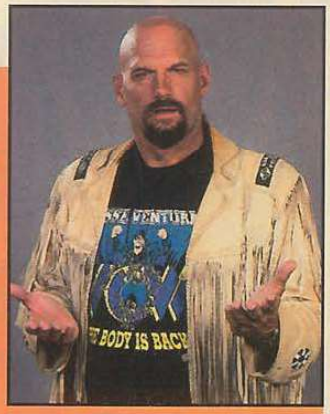
DAVEY BOY SMITH

Height: 6'
Weight: 260 lbs.
Years Pro: 16
Birthdate: June 6
Hometown: Leeds, England
Favorite Wrestlers: Sting, Dustin Rhodes, Ricky Steamboat
Most Hated Wrestlers: Rick Rude, Vader
Favorite Maneuver: Powerslam
Favorite TV Show: *The Avengers*
Favorite Movies: *Battle Of The Bulge, A Hard Day's Night,* all James Bond movies
Favorite Actors: Michael Caine, Roger Moore
Favorite Actresses: Catherine Oxenburg, Diana Rigg, Ingrid Bergman
Favorite Food: Fish and chips
Favorite Drinks: Dark ale, Evian water
Favorite Colors: Red, white, and blue
Favorite Number: 4
Favorite Musicians: Elton John, Sting, Phil Collins, The Beatles
Last CD Bought: *Demolition Man* soundtrack
Last Book Read: Don't Ever Give Up by Winston Churchill
Last Movie Seen: *Demolition Man*

"There are a lot of problems in WCW right now, not the least of which is Rick Rude running around here, running off at the mouth, and trying to convince everybody what a hotshot he is. Yes, he's a great wrestler, but that's all he is; he's a despicable human being if ever I saw one, and I'm going to teach him a few lessons and knock him down a few rungs on that ladder of ego he's climbed up to the sky. Prepare yourself for a rude awakening, Mr. 'Ravishing One,' because this 'British Bulldog' never backs down!"



BODY ENGLISH



By Jesse "The Body" Ventura

Last issue, I gave you my picks for the WCW MAGAZINE reader awards (next issue, we'll see if your votes match my opinions). This time out, what with the holiday spirit gripping us all, I'd like to distribute a few special holiday gifts to various WCW personnel:

To "Mean" Gene Okerlund: A ponytail to match that bald pate of his, so he can be (almost) as stylish as "The Body."

To Yoshi Kwan: Some more tattoos for his left arm, so it balances out with his right.

To Col. Parker: A chicken franchise.

To Ricky Steamboat: Some mouthwash for use after he blows that fire of his.

To The Nasty Boys: Some mouthwash, some soap, and a whole K-Mart's worth of personal hygiene products. These guys are *gross.*

To Cactus Jack: A full set of unbroken, pain-free bones. He'll never have 'em, but he could use 'em.

To Tony Schiavone: A goatee. He looked pretty smooth at Halloween Havoc, don't you think?

To The Equalizer: A tag team partner who looks like Stephen Stills.

To Rick Rude: Fifi (after all, why not give a man the gift he really wants?).

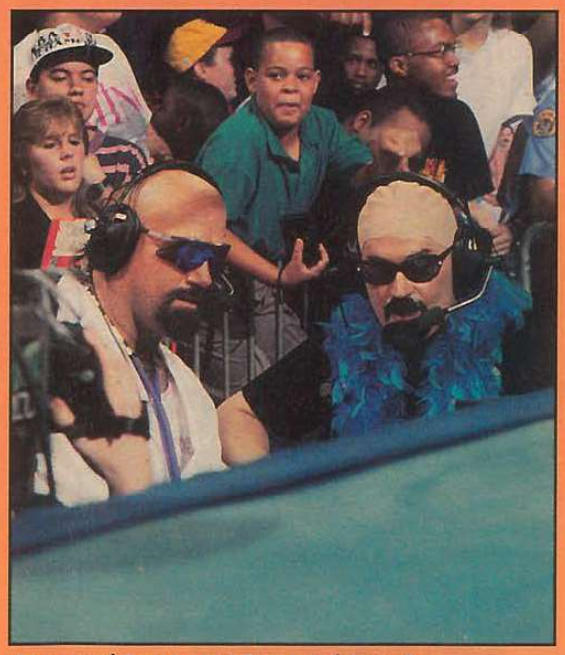
To The Colossal Kongs: Proper management.

To Lord Steven Regal: An audience with The Queen.

To you readers: Another year of brilliance in this space.

See you in 30.

Jesse Ventura serves as color commentator on ***WCW Saturday Night*** *on TBS, the syndicated* ***WCW Worldwide*** *program, and WCW's Clash and pay-per-view broadcasts.*



Jesse and Tony ... or Tony and Jesse?

SINCE YOU ASKED...

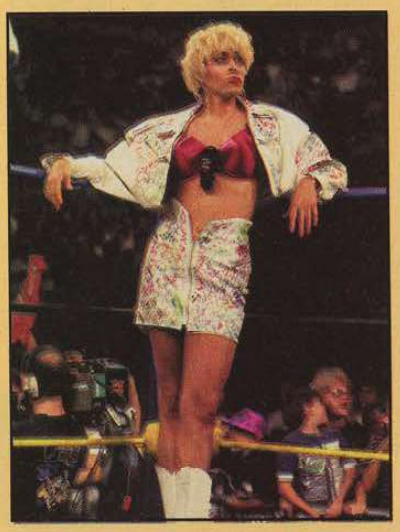
"Vader: I have one question and two comments. Why do you call yourself the man? Also, you're fat and ugly. You're not the man."

—Rita Kelly
Crestview, Florida

"Hey, Rita," Vader howled, "I *am* the man, whether or not you like it, Ric Flair likes it, or anyone else in the world likes it. Why? Did you see Halloween Havoc? Did you see Fall Brawl? Do you watch the Clashes? Did you see any match I've wrestled in over the past two years? Do you even have eyes, or half a brain? Obviously not! How you can call yourself a wrestling fan and not recognize why I am the man only shows what an idiot you are. Go watch Captain Planet and leave wrestling to the real fans who know what's going on."

If you have a question for a WCW star—any WCW star—send it to: "Since You Asked" c/o WCW MAGAZINE, Box 956, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034.

front row ringside



TOP 10 RATINGS

This issue's "Top 10 Ratings" come from Jessica Gibbon of Lackawanna, New York, who reports that she would sometime in the future like to be a valet or manager! Meanwhile, she's offered the following list:

10 BEST-DRESSED INDIVIDUALS IN WCW

1—Missy Hyatt
2—Sting
3—Davey Boy Smith
4—Marcus Bagwell
5—Ric Flair
6—Eric Bischoff
7—Rick Rude
8—Jesse Ventura
9—Johnny B. Badd
10—Cactus Jack

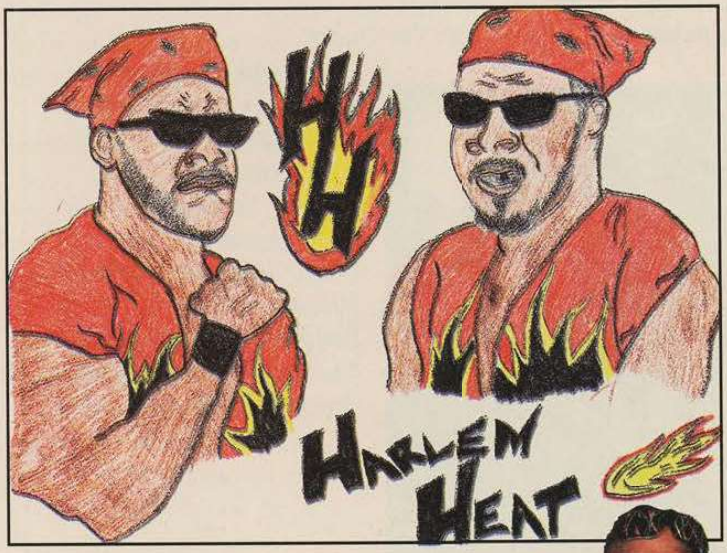
If you have an offbeat ratings category, we want to see it! Maybe we'll print it in a future issue. Send your ratings to: "WCW Top 10" c/o WCW MAGAZINE, Box 956, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034.

FAN FUN CORNER

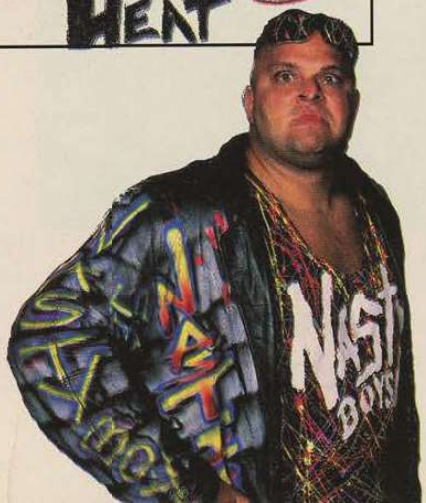
Each issue, "Front Row Ringside" features a selection of fan artwork involving WCW and its superstars. Do you have any artwork such as drawings or paintings you've made? How about computer art, or a photograph of some other WCW-oriented crafts project you've done? If so, we'd like to feature your work in "Front Row Ringside."

Send your material to the following address: "Fan Fun Corner" c/o WCW MAGAZINE, Box 956, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania 19034. All material becomes the property of WCW MAGAZINE and, due to the large volume of submissions received, cannot be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

A note about your drawings: Pencil sketches don't always reproduce well in the magazine; ink drawings are better, and drawings done with colored inks or markers reproduce best of all.



Buddy Phillips, 16
Memphis, Tennessee

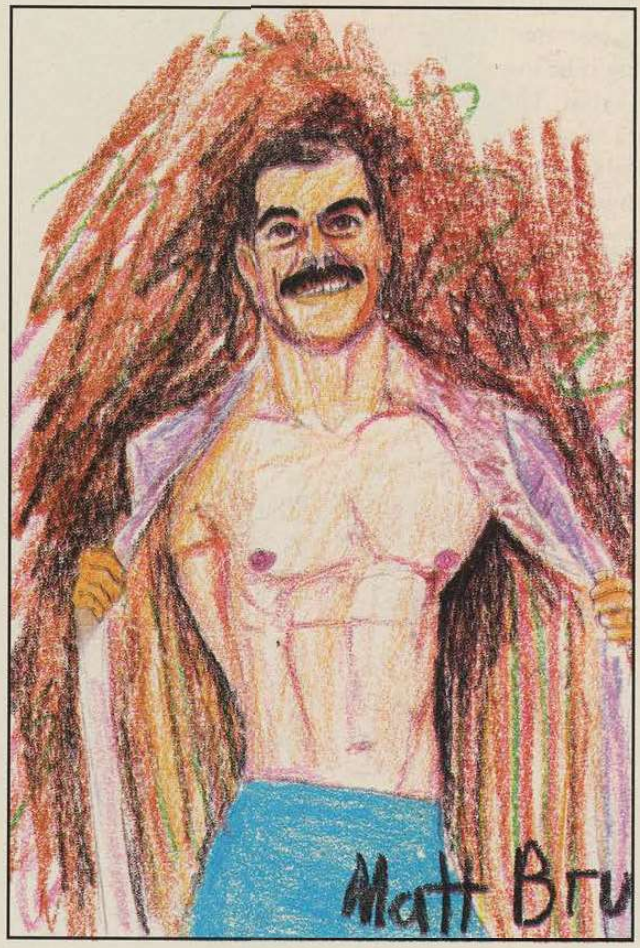


ANSWER TO "WHO AM I?" ON PAGE 10: JERRY SAGS

Jonathan Shallcross
Flushing, New York

Max Ortiz
New Orleans, Louisiana

Richard Snell, 14
Bromsgrove, England



Matt Bruer
Berkley, Michigan

GORDON SOLIE REMEMBERS

It's hard to believe that this year's Starrcade event marks the 10th anniversary of wrestling's original supercard.

Almost as hard to believe as Ric Flair's vow: that he'll quit wrestling if he loses to Vader.

Not that I think Flair is kidding. On the contrary, I'm sure he's deadly serious. But throughout his entire career, the "Nature Boy" has been the kind of man who has been able to bounce back from adversity and achieve heights of championship excellence like none other.

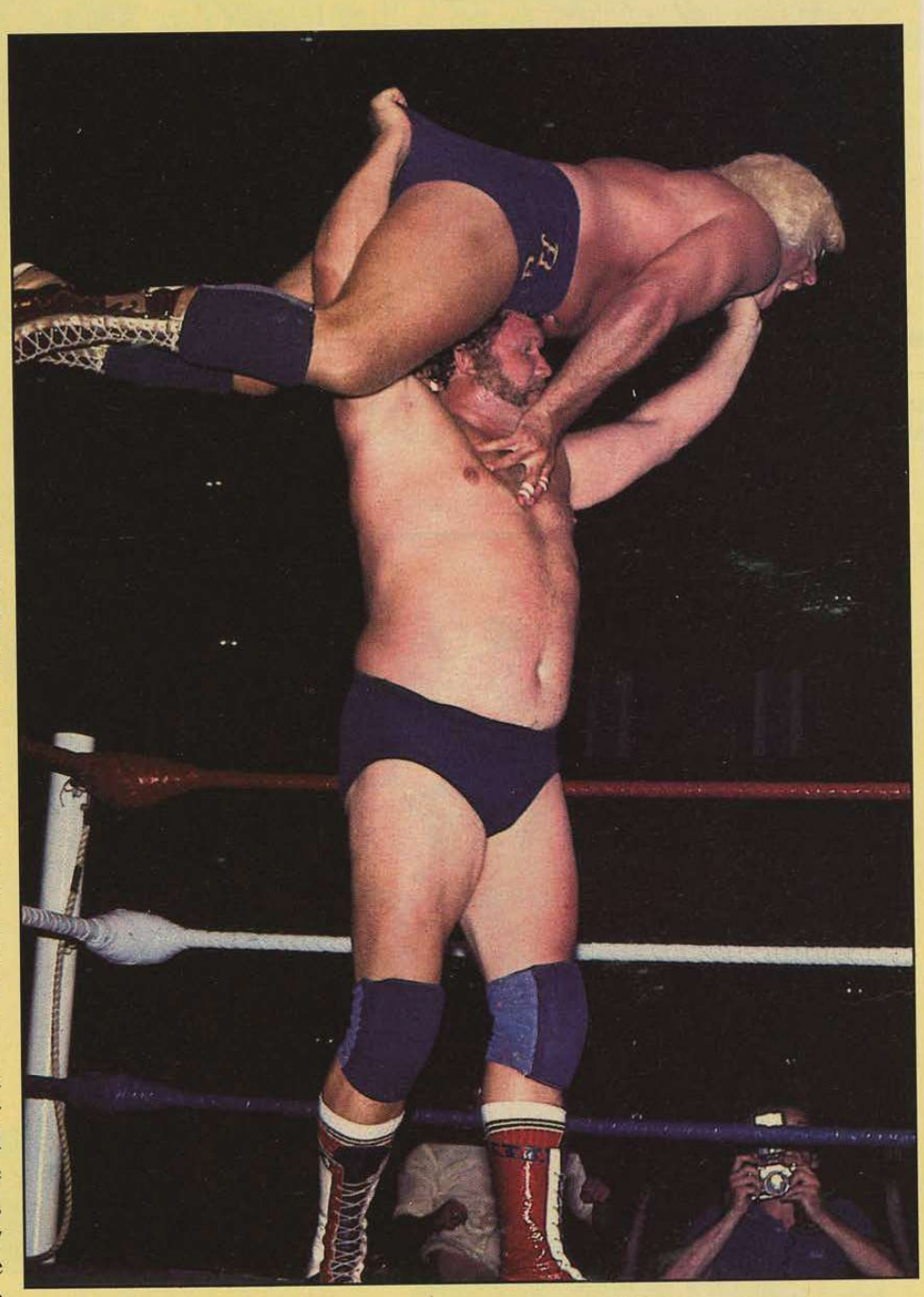
The very first Starrcade carried that dimension to its main event. Harley Race ended Flair's first World title reign on June 10, 1983, in St. Louis. The "Nature Boy" made a vow then and there that he would regain the title before the year was out—which he did, on November 24, 1983, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

That Starrcade match was a cage match, by the way, a factor that all the experts said favored Race. But Flair emerged from the cage with the belt in hand, fulfilling his championship vow and placing the world on notice that here was a man who rose to the occasion when the occasion demanded it.

At Starrcade '93, the occasion will demand it more than ever. Will Flair be able to rise to the occasion? Clearly, he's placing as much pressure on himself as he can to help motivate himself to do so. Let's all hope he doesn't crack under that pressure.

See you next month!

WCW broadcaster Gordon Solie, the dean of professional wrestling, has been an expert analyst of the sport since 1959.



Harley Race vs. Ric Flair: June 10, 1983

WCW

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Kids' Size!
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C. WCTYO008 Sting Mask C $4.00
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Cuzzi is FREE when you join
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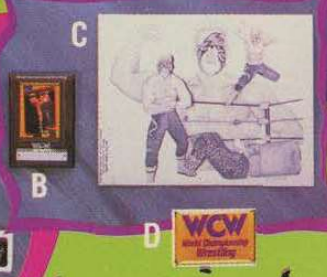

A. STGLY001 WCW Sting Gloves $14.0
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Limited Edition $10.00
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I. JBKC0001 Johnny B. Bad Key Chain $4.00
J. STKCO002 Sting Key Chain $4.00
K. FBKC0001 Flyin' Brian Key Chain $4.00
L. WCTSL014 WCW T-Shirt $16.00
M. WCBL0001 Wrestling Championship Belts $13.00
N. WCFP0001 Fanny Pack $8.00
O. WCLP0001 WCW Pants $22.00
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L. STTSL029 Sting Scorpion $16.00

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R. JVTSL001 Jesse Ventura $16.00

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			Shipping	
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$35.01 TO $50	$5.00	$12.00	$20.00
$50.01 TO $75	$5.50	$14.00	$25.00
$75.01 TO $100	$6.00	$17.00	$30.00
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A STARRCADE SPECTACULAR

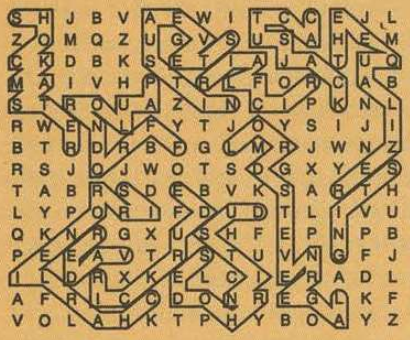
In this challenging word search puzzle, we've hidden the nicknames of a half-dozen Starrcade events. But rather than tell you what the hidden nicknames are, we're adding a twist: We give you the year of the event, and you come up with the nickname (which is then hidden in the puzzle). For example: If we say "Starrcade 1985" your answer would be "The Gathering" (which we've shown you to get you started). As you can see, the letters of the words in the puzzle are not in a straight line. Can you find the remaining five nicknames? Remember: A hidden word never crosses over any other hidden word. (Puzzle solution on page 34.)

CLUES TO HIDDEN WORDS:

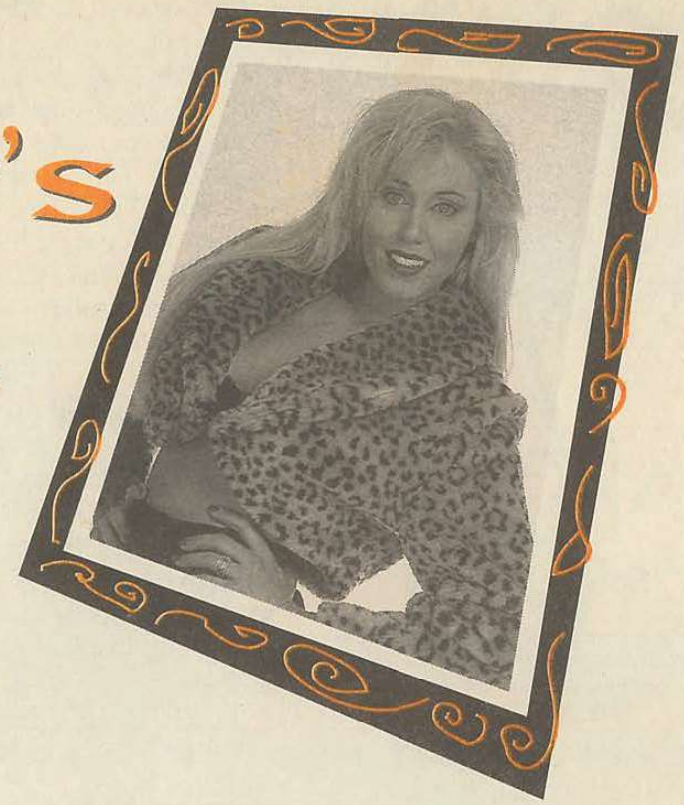
STARRCADE 1983
STARRCADE 1987
STARRCADE 1988
STARRCADE 1989
STARRCADE 1990

D F Q P J R Z O P Y N Y S U C
K H G U O F C V F H T C A L H
C S E R E R W J G A B W Y I N
W Q G S T H A Z F Q Z G T V S
H C R P E W M L U X A D O U G
E L M U I G S Y D R E G N W Q
H D Q O M U O L B J L K H S H
F C N C A I F L A C D A T E L
G M D O S T L K O I M H I A H
T N G N I F Y U N C R W X F S
I Z E T H X O E A I O L C T O
R H B J O G K Q M E J F R K R
E K Y H F Z I N C D S W I G U
H G E T T N I O W U A K T T E
T A P H H E J R Z R P J H X F

ANSWER TO CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE ON PAGE 34:



Missy's View



Trisha Yearwood

By Missy Hyatt

Let me lead off this month with my official "In" and "Out" list as 1993 draws to a close ... In: **The Nasty Boys** ... Out: **Marcus Alexander Bagwell** and **2 Cold Scorpio** ... In: Being World tag team champions ... Out: Being just another pair of losing contenders ... In: Getting Nasticized! ... Out: Slinking back to the dressing room with another notch in the loss column ... In: **Missy Hyatt** ... Out: **Teddy Long** ... In: **Jerry Sags** and **Brian Knobs** ... Out: Every other team silly enough to try and step into the ring with them! ... Now, on to the mail ... *I think you are beautiful,* writes Bobbie King of Sanford, North Carolina, *and I really admire you. I think you are the best manager in WCW, and I love your articles in WCW* MAGAZINE ... Well, Bobbie, I think so, too, and I do, too ... *I would like to congratulate one of the smartest ladies in WCW,* begins this letter from Ramin W. Massing Jr. of Laurel, Montana. *It's so great to see you back as a manager. Again, you are showing WCW that not only are you a very beautiful lady, but a very smart lady. That must be why you are the First Lady of WCW. Now that The Nasty Boys are on top, I know you can keep them on top. Keep up the good work!* ... Thanks, Ramin, I know I will! ... And here's a fascinating letter that came Express Mail just before deadline: *Please, Missy, do anything and everything in your power to make sure Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags don't beat us up again! We can't take it anymore! Uncle! We give up! Help us, please!* ... Interestingly, it was signed C. Scorp. and M. Bag. ... Hmmmmm ... Well, it *could* happen! ... By the way, here's a special hello to Jason Kevin Dias; I can't remember the last time I got a letter from Kenya. Thanks, Jason! ... I *still* can't believe how brutal that Halloween Havoc main event was between **Vader** and **Cactus Jack**. *Eeeek!* ... If I were **Ric Flair,** I'd be very, very careful at Starrcade. I mean, look how much effort Jack put out—and he lost! Does anyone really think Flair can top that? I don't think so. Bye, bye, "Nature Boy" ... I can hardly believe that there's a perfume tied to country music star **Trisha Yearwood**; probably smells like the underside of the *Hee Haw* haystack. Hey, Revlon: I'm much more beautiful,

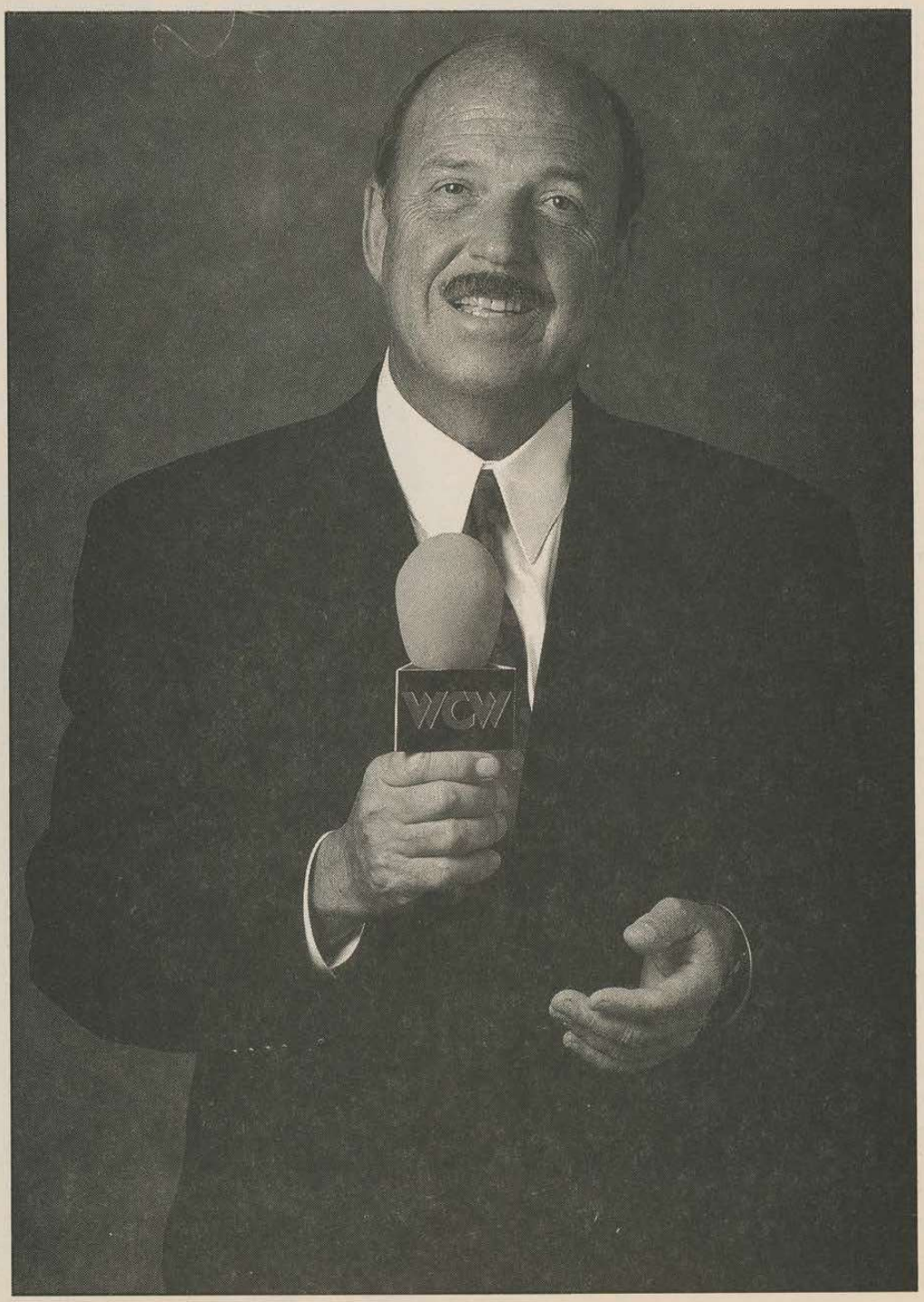
sensuous, and popular than her! Come on, let's talk marketing! ... Attention **Ron Simmons**: If you're interested in really being a success, maybe we should talk. After all, look what I did for the Nastys! ... **Madonna's** recent tour has been pretty boring, if you ask me. She should give me a call, I'd give her a few tips on how to spice things up ... Is **Brian Pillman** a wimp, or what? Nice hair, though! ... I predict that **Conan O'Brien** is going to be following in **Chevy Chase's** footsteps very soon ... You know, since it's the holiday season, I'm feeling in the spirit of gift-giving. So if anyone wants to give me some gifts, here are a few ideas: diamond earrings, diamond tennis bracelet, diamond ankle bracelet ... Well, you get the idea, right? I hope so! ... And if you want to get the Nastys anything for the holidays, how about trying to find them some opponents that will give them more of a challenge than those icky old losers they've been wrestling lately? ... I've said it once, I'll say it again: Does anybody ever eat fruitcake? Yuck! And what are those little red and green things in it, anyway? How gross! ... **Yoshi Kwan** is another wrestler I could do wonders with if he trusted me to manage him ... Then again, I don't even know what language he speaks, so communication might be a little problem ... In my opinion, **Hillary Clinton** deserves to be named Woman of the Year ... I wonder where **Col. Parker** buys his shirts? ... I really liked **Howard Stern's** book, *Private Parts,* but there weren't enough pictures ... Just because **Lord Steven Regal** is man enough to take himself seriously doesn't mean that everybody else should look down their noses at him ... Isn't it about time for **Bruce Springsteen** to stop playing Mr. Mom and get back into the recording studio? ... They can put a man on the moon, but you can't get good strawberries all year 'round. Go figure ... See y'all next month!

Editor's note: If you would like to write to Missy, send your letters and questions to: Missy's View" c/o WCW Magazine, Box 956, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, 19034. ◆

Col. Robert Parker

10 Questions

GENE OKERLUND



When WCW makes a major talent acquisition, it's usually signing an outstanding wrestler or a significant up-and-coming star. Over the last three years, however, WCW has pulled off two major coups in the broadcast booth with the signings of Jesse "The Body" Ventura and "Mean" Gene Okerlund. Okerlund's arrival in November marked the reunion of an outstanding broadcast team, and TV viewers will be the benefactors. As fans already know, Ventura is the most incisive analyst in the sport. As WCW fans are about to find out, Okerlund is an outstanding interviewer with a big, wonderful voice. You'll discover that, in this case, the whole is much larger than the sum of its parts. Ventura and Okerlund will work with Tony Schiavone and Gordon Solie to provide viewers with the entire WCW picture. They'll bring out the best in each other on WCW telecasts. WCW MAGAZINE'S Dave Rosenbaum welcomed "Mean" Gene to the fold by asking him these "10 Questions."

1

WCW MAGAZINE: Why do they call you "Mean" Gene? You're not mean, are you?

OKERLUND: That's the point exactly. Maybe some people

think I'm mean, but I'm not one of them. I'd like to think I'm one of the friendliest people in the world. If people want to come up to me and talk, I'm all ears. Maybe I shouldn't have said that.

2

WCW MAGAZINE: How does it feel to be back with your old pal, Jesse "The Body" Ventura?

OKERLUND: Aren't you going to ask me why they call him "The Body"? Same reason they call me "Mean." But seriously, yes, it's great to be back with Jesse. Maybe he and I don't agree on everything, but I've always found him to be a very honest, forthright person who does his homework before he gets on the air. I don't think you'll find another analyst in the world who is more insightful and knows more about the wrestlers than Jesse. Maybe sometimes he gets a little too carried away, but that's just Jesse.

3

WCW MAGAZINE: Every broadcaster who comes to work in WCW or wants to work in WCW always talks about Gordon Solie. How did Gordon influence your career?

OKERLUND: Ah, I think Gordon Solie has influenced just about every sportscaster in the United States. Gordon has been called the Walter Cronkite of wrestling and I don't think that's too far-fetched. When Gordon says something, people believe it. He turns rumor into fact. The thing about Gordon is that so many of us have heard him, even if we don't know it he had an influence on our styles and the kinds of questions we ask. There isn't another one like him.

4

WCW MAGAZINE: There's a school of thought that says three-man broadcasting teams are needed for big events, and there's another school that says two men are enough and there's nothing wrong with dead air. What do you think about such a situation?

OKERLUND: Well, I've always thought the more the merrier. Three is great if you use it right. I'm not sure all three men should be in the broadcast booth. Maybe you can have two at ringside and the other back in the locker room area. That way you can have complete coverage of an event. TV's greatest asset is its timeliness, and we have to do everything possible to take advantage of "being there."

5

WCW MAGAZINE: Is life on the road ever lonely?

OKERLUND: Sometimes. The wrestlers tend to stick together in two packs and I'm not one of them so sometimes it's uncomfortable when I run into one in a bar or restaurant. Maybe there's one other broadcaster on the road with you, in addition to the crew. Fortunately, most times it's one shot and out. We fly into a city in the morning, set up, do the card, and then leave either that night or the next morning. It's a hectic schedule and we're on the road a lot, but there's not much time to be homesick.

6

WCW MAGAZINE: Videotape replay has been used in the NFL and the NHL. What do you think about using it in wrestling?

OKERLUND: It could never work. The referee would be going to the videotape every five seconds. The only possibility is using videotape to verify pins. After the match is over, the referee can check the videotape and make sure nobody had their foot on the rope and there was no interference. The problem is that 95 percent of all cards aren't televised and the cost of changing that would be enormous.

7

WCW MAGAZINE: Has wrestling become too dependent on TV?

OKERLUND: No way! Let's remember that wrestling first became very popular as a TV sport in the 1950s. You know, I think the media sometimes has a bad habit of mistakenly overstating problems. The human memory is a funny thing. We remember that such-and-such arena was sold out 10 years ago, but we tend to forget the nights it didn't sell out. Wrestling is doing fine. More people are watching it on TV than ever before and the arena cards are still drawing good crowds. Besides, with pay-per-view, more people can see live wrestling in one night than previously saw it in an entire month. And if you ask me, there's nothing like live wrestling.

8

WCW MAGAZINE: When you're watching another sport on TV, which announcer do you like listening to?

OKERLUND: Harry Caray in Chicago is great because he has such enthusiasm and he loves the Cubs. But the man I really respect is Vin Scully. I love the way he seems to be telling a story, even though the game is happening right before his eyes.

9

WCW MAGAZINE: We're going to put you on the spot: Who is the next WCW World champion.

OKERLUND: After Vader? Well, I think Davey Boy Smith's time has come. He's had some disappointments, but he's finally ready to take the big step.

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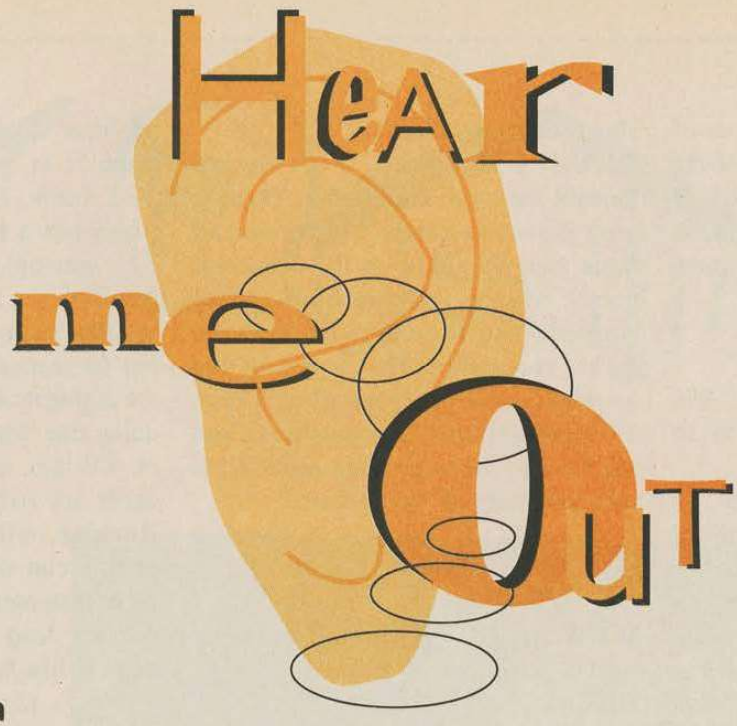
WCW MAGAZINE: Complete this sentence: If "Mean" Gene Okerlund wasn't a broadcaster, he'd be ...

OKERLUND: Gosh, that's a tough one! I'm fortunate to be doing what I love, so I don't have to worry about what I could be doing. I'd hate to think what would happen if I wasn't in wrestling, so maybe I'd be a promoter. You know, that's a very difficult job and it has always intrigued me. ◆



By Brian Pillman

I'm glad somebody finally gave me the chance to speak my mind. These days, it seems the only ones who get a chance to talk are my ex-partner Steve Austin and that phony Southern KFC wannabe Col. Robert Parker (in fact, I found out Parker isn't even from the South: He's really from Holbrook, Idaho!). If they don't want to hear what I have to say, fine. They can just rip up the magazine for all I care. Meanwhile, this is *my* turn. Like the magazine says, "Hear Me Out."

Listen, maybe I've made some mistakes in my career, but the biggest one yet was trusting Austin. "Not-so-stunning" Steve doesn't care about anyone but himself. He's never heard of the words "friendship" or "mutual respect." Give and take? Where Austin is concerned, it's a matter of everybody else gives, and Austin takes and takes and takes.

I probably should have known that all along, because Austin never hid the way he is. The thing is, I figured we made such a great tag team, maybe things would work out. How was I to know that I'd break my ankle?

Can you believe that? Breaking my ankle was the worst thing I ever did. It cost me the WCW World tag team title because Austin went and found an inadequate replacement like Lord Steven Regal and it cost me my friendship with Austin. Well, that's okay, because all this did was open my eyes to the truth.

You know, I was pretty down that whole time after my ankle broke. Seeing those belts get taken away and not being able to do anything about it was the toughest moment of my life. I still don't understand why we couldn't have pulled out of the match and waited 30 days. Sure, there was no way I would have been ready to wrestle after 30 days, but how was Austin to know that? Besides, maybe he could have found a better partner.

Instead, I had to lay in bed the whole time and watch Clash of the Champions and see Austin and Regal blow the belts to The Horsemen. Now, you're probably thinking Austin was at my side the whole time and tried to help me out, like a good friend and partner should. Well, Austin's never been a good friend or partner. I could count on one hand the number of times he called or visited me. Heck, I could count it on two fingers, and still have one left over to scrape the wax out of my ears.

I can't wait to see the day Austin is laid up in bed and Col. Parker leaves him laying there.

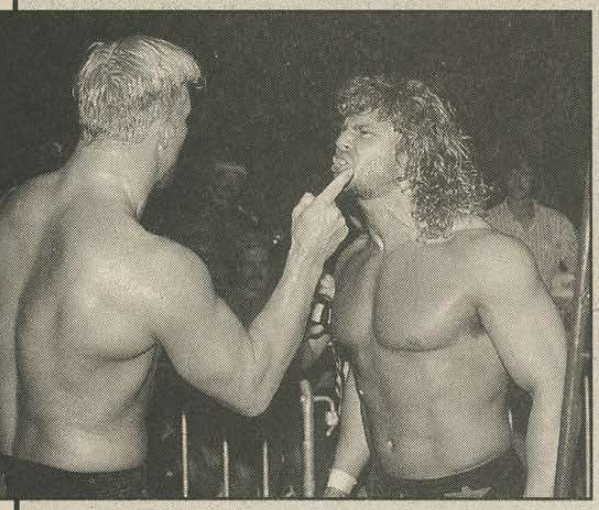
Here are the facts: There was nothing I could do about breaking my ankle. But there *was* something Austin could have done: He could've given me some support instead of looking out entirely for himself. I'm not saying a man doesn't have to look out for No. 1, because he does, but I thought we had a stake in each other's careers. Man, I thought we were a *team.*

The whole thing with Col. Parker was the last straw. I'm aware that Parker got Austin the U.S. title match against Dustin Rhodes at Halloween Havoc. Austin thought Parker was helping him, and maybe he was, but Parker's nothing but a used car salesman. He was just fronting him a bill of goods, saying, "Look what I can do for you." Now that he's got him, let's see what happens. We saw what Parker did for Sid Vicious. Watch out for your leg, Steve!

Parker was right about one thing, though: Austin is a great wrestler. He has all the ability in the world. The problem is that he doesn't know how to use it, and he doesn't know how to make friends. You know, friends are important in this business. You can't watch your own back at all times, so sometimes somebody has to watch it for you. If I was Austin, I'd be watching my back at all times, because I'm coming after him.

I'm really looking forward to December 27. I'm not wrestling at Starrcade, but Austin is going after Dustin Rhodes' U.S. title, and I kind of hope he gets it. Because if he does, he's going to have to defend that title against me, and I know he can't deal with a 100-percent healthy Flyin' Brian.

Still reading, Austin? Good, because there aren't going to be any sneak-attacks here. I'm coming right after you and I'll make you pay the price for turning your back on me. As for you, Col. Parker, just keep on trying to live off of other people's accomplishments. You'll never amount to anything. ◆



Most fans thought that the Hollywood Blond arguments between Steve Austin and Brian Pillman were simply due to competitive intensity. Apparently, though, there were bad feelings that ran much deeper.

STEVE REGAL vs. DUSTIN RHODES

It all seemed so proper and dignified. Nobody would have guessed that a war was about to happen.

Fans know to expect something special when two wrestlers at the peak of their games meet in the ring. Each man is sharp, confident, in control, and ready to take on any challenger.

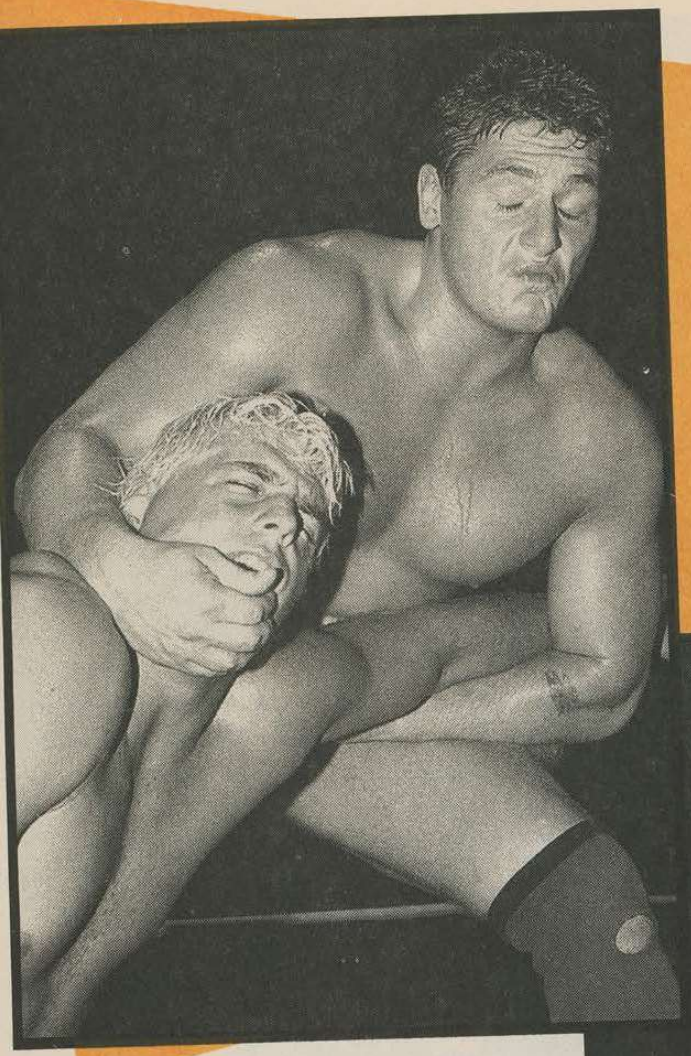
That's how Dustin Rhodes and Lord Steven Regal felt when they clashed in a rare U.S. title vs. TV title match.

"This is definitely the best I've ever felt," Rhodes said. "I had no idea how much winning the U.S. title would mean to me, but in terms of confidence and knowing I can go into that ring and beat anybody I wrestle, it's been unbelievable. Look at what I did against Vader. A year ago, I could have *never* gone after him like I did."

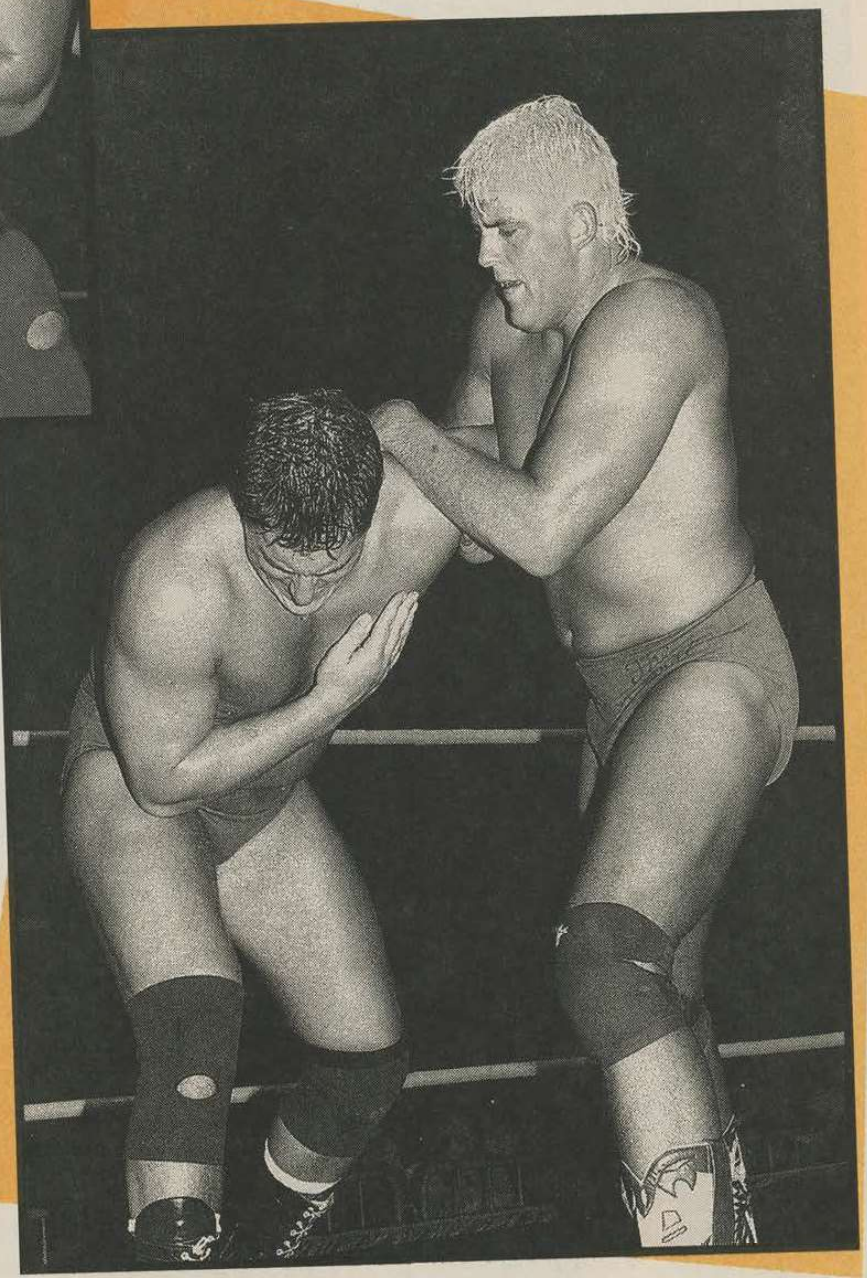
The thing about Lord Steven Regal is that he never lacks for confidence. Winning the TV title from Ricky Steamboat merely boosted his ego into the stratosphere. The self-proclaimed greatest scientific wrestler in the world now has a belt to back up his boasts.

"Having the WCW TV title merely proves to all of those idiots out there what I knew all along," Regal said. "I've conquered Europe and now I've conquered the U.S. I've gone a step further than my great grandfather, William the Conqueror."

Regal relished the opportunity to wrestle Rhodes. The legend of the Rhodes family is well-known in European wrestling circles, and Regal looked forward to squashing the son of "The American Dream." But he knew his success depended on keeping Dustin off-balance.



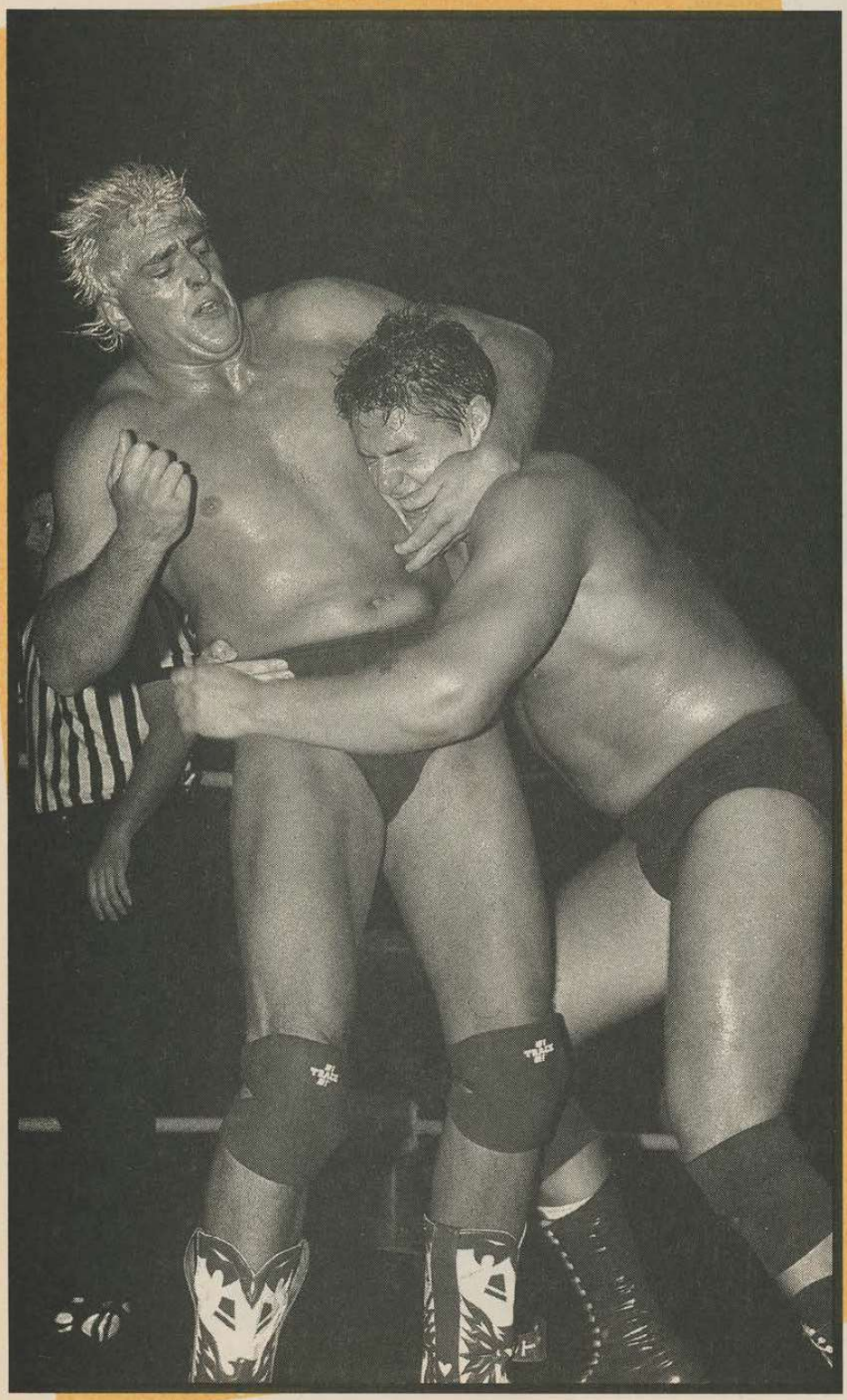
Lord Steven Regal looks at if he just sniffed a garbage dump as he ties up Dustin Rhodes with an armlock/chinlock combination.



"The Natural" takes control of the TV champion with an armlock.

"If I can force him to think, he doesn't stand a chance," Regal said. "I'd match my brains against his any day. Rhodes wants to get down in the mud and brawl. I'm more distinguished than that."

The prematch scene in the locker rooms was rather unusual. There was no nervous pacing. Rhodes joked with a few of the other wrestlers and read a wrestling magazine. He took a phone call and made plans to meet with a friend for dinner after the card. Regal read the play *Juno And The Paycock*—"IRA rubbish," he called it—and drank from a bottle of mineral water.



Rhodes peppers Regal's head with a series of closed-fist blows.

It all seemed so proper and dignified. Nobody would have guessed that a war was about to happen. But that's sometimes the case when two men are so confident in their abilities.

This confidence was also obvious when the bell rang. Instead of sitting back and waiting for an opportunity, Regal and Rhodes tore into each other. Rhodes landed a few punches to the midsection while Regal went for an early headlock, but failed. Confidence, of course, isn't always an athlete's best friend. Sometimes it makes him overzealous.

Sir William tried to keep Regal under control. He signaled for a timeout, motioned Regal to a corner of the ring, and told him to slow down. Timeouts aren't allowed in wrestling, however, and Rhodes drove a knee into Regal from behind.

"I gave him the same courtesy he would have given me," Rhodes said. "I had an opportunity and took it. The problem was, that's when I should have put him away. Instead, I gave him a chance to recover."

Regal was suddenly furious. He scored with a takedown, then lifted Rhodes into an armlock. Blood rushed to Rhodes' head; it was as if Regal was trying to separate it from the rest of his body.

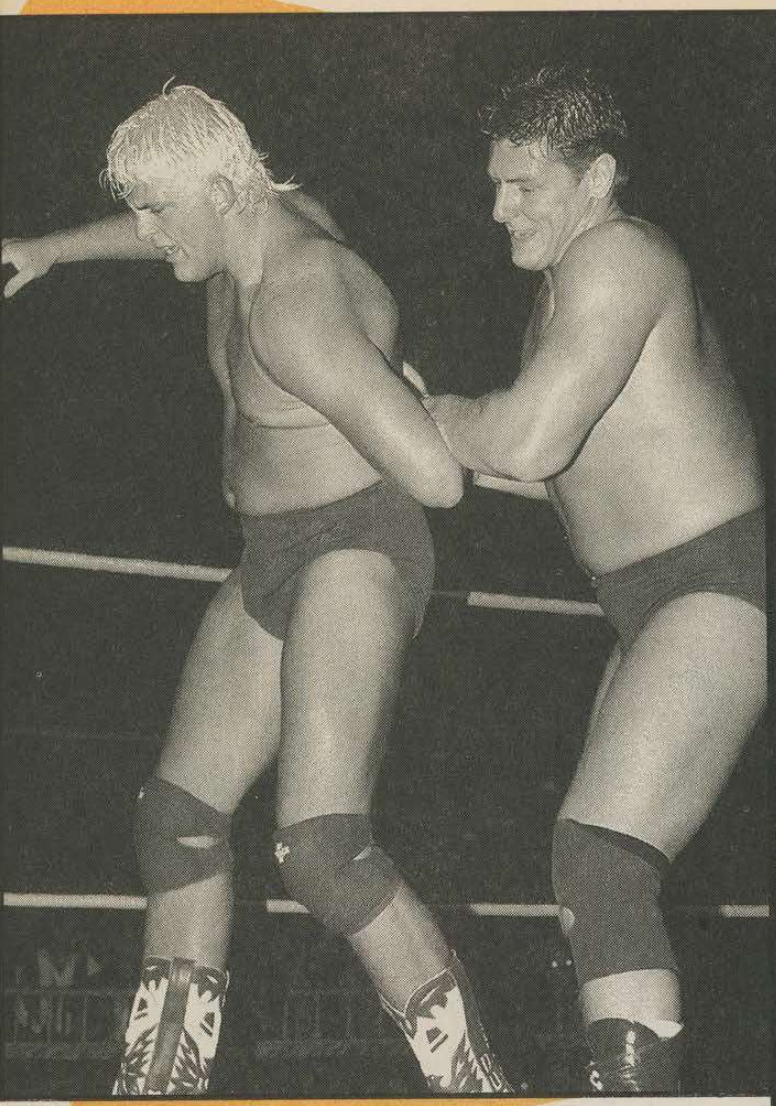
Rhodes wasn't through. He punched his way out of trouble, whipped Regal into the ropes, and caught him with a clothesline. Then he caught Regal in a headlock and closed his fist to pound away at the TV champion's head. The battle had intensified.

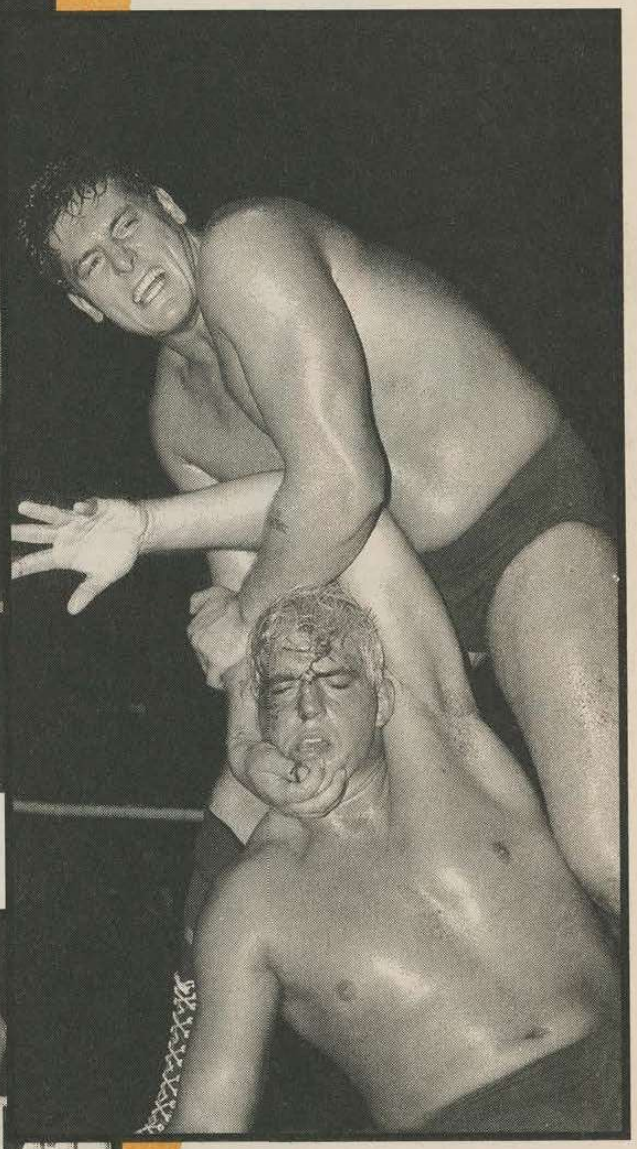
Regal counterwrestled his way out of trouble and locked up Rhodes from behind in a chicken wing. He slammed Rhodes' head into the turnbuckle, opening a gash on the U.S. champion's forehead. Rhodes was bleeding profusely as the concerned ringside doctor looked on.

"I knew I was bleeding pretty badly," Rhodes said. "I was just hoping that the doctor wouldn't try to stop the match. I've wrestled and won with much worse cuts than that."

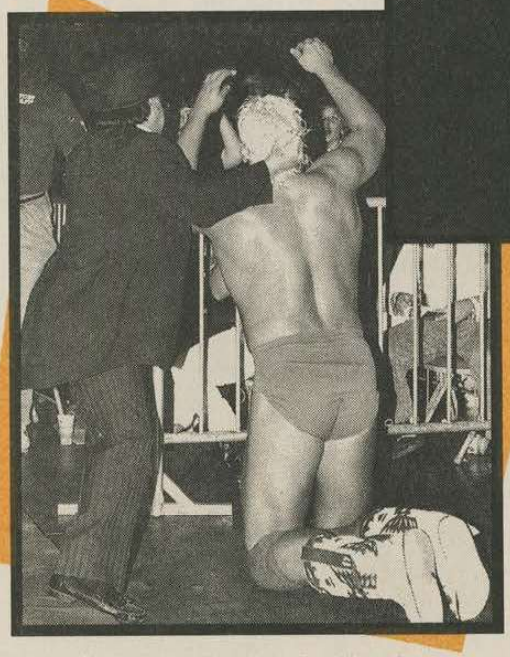
He didn't win this one. The action

spilled out of the ring where Regal retained the advantage and slammed Dustin's head into the ring railing. Sir William took a turn, too, doing the same to Rhodes. Dustin was brought to his knees and William—who, standing up, was about the same height as Rhodes!—continued dishing out the abuse.





"His Lordship" took control of the bout with this chicken wing (above), then quickly followed up by bloodying "The Natural" and snaring him in another armlock/chinlock combination (far right).



Sir William even got involved in the action, slamming Rhodes' head into the steel railing.

Rhodes and Regal kept battling after the referee called for the bell and ruled a double-countout. Amazingly, two men who prior to the match thought about everything but wrestling were suddenly absorbed in tearing each other to pieces.

Dustin's postmatch dinner date was postponed.

Regal didn't quite get around to finishing his book.

Their match was everything everyone expected it to be ... everyone but the wrestlers! ◆

RON SIMMONS SHOCKS THE WORLD:

"IT'S TIME FOR ME TO LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE!"

By Dave Rosenbaum

Something about winning the WCW World title once makes a wrestler eternally hungry for more. Ask any champion who thought he'd be satisfied with one World title. Approximately 99.9 percent of wrestlers never get that far. But once you win it, the belt takes over. It's like a drug.

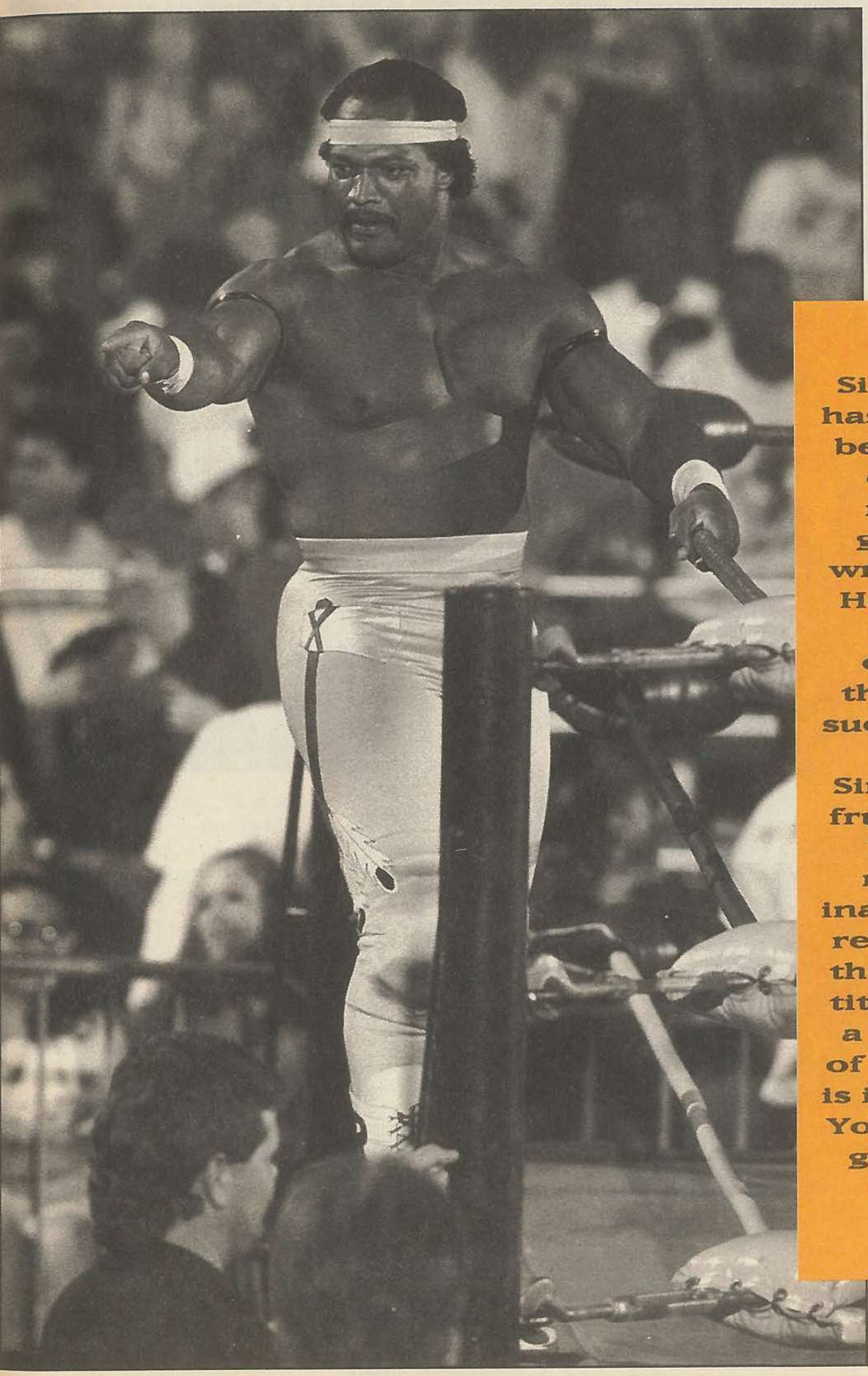
Ron Simmons once had the feeling.

On August 2, 1992, Simmons experienced the greatest moment of his career when he defeated Vader for the World title. Of course, the high doesn't last forever. Sometimes it stays for a month, sometimes for a year or two. In Simmons' case, the high lasted until he lost the belt to Vader nearly five months later.

"August 2 was the high point of my career, and December 30—Starrcade '92—was the low point," Simmons said. "But that doesn't mean my career is over. I plan on getting it all back, even if the guys upstairs want no part of me."

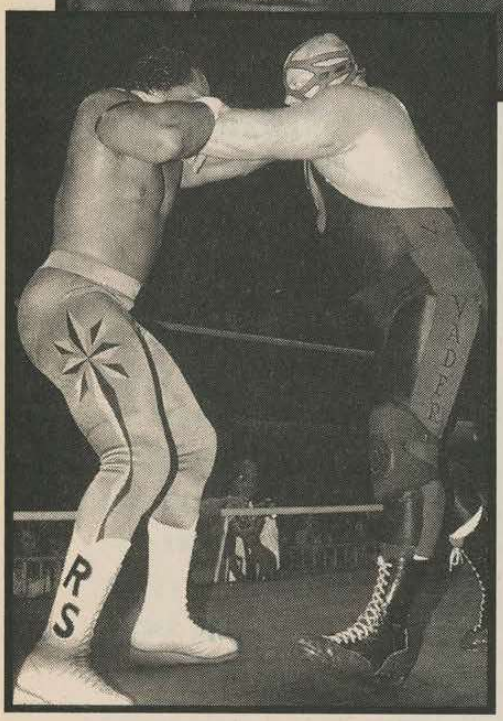
The "guys upstairs" are the WCW officials who, according to Simmons, haven't given him the respect accorded all other former champions. Simmons conveniently disregards the World tag team title shots he and Ice Train got against The Nasty Boys. He has his eye on only one object: the belt wrapped around Vader's waist.

"I was never given the fair chance to get my belt back," Simmons said. "It was like WCW didn't want me on top. But look at Sting. Look at Ric Flair. Man, he's



Ron Simmons has always been one of the nicest guys in wrestling. He's also been one of the most successful. But Simmons, frustrated by his recent inability to recapture the World title, feels a change of attitude is in order. You're not going to like it

Simmons and Ice Train (armtwisting Bobby Eaton) formed a tag team, but broke up after a brief time due to constant squabbling both in and out of the ring. ©



Ron Simmons engages in a test of strength with Vader. The "All-American" defeated Vader to win his only WCW World title, and he's willing to embrace rulebreaking to regain the championship gold.

been around for 50 years and he's still being treated like a God. Why don't I get that kind of respect? I'm a former champion, too."

If Simmons sounds bitter ... well, he is.

If it sounds like Simmons will do anything to regain the title ... well, he will.

And if it sounds like he's had enough of the establishment ... well, he has.

"From now on, I'm looking out for number one," Simmons said. "I don't care if the fans like it, because *I* do. This isn't about their lives. They can go to work every day and come home to their families at night and never accomplish anything else. This is *my* life, and that belt is the only thing worth going for."

Simmons, formerly one of the most popular wrestlers in WCW, credits Ice Train with inspiring his change of heart.

"I realized I was putting too much of my life in other people's hands, but those very same people had absolutely no regard for me," Simmons said. "Look at Ice Train. He just couldn't keep himself focused. I tried to keep his mind on business, but he didn't want any part of it, and he just didn't care how it was affecting me. I had no time for that."

Simmons and Ice Train were a popular and effective tag team that got derailed inches short of the WCW World tag title. On an edition of *WCW Saturday Night* in early October, Simmons and Ice Train had the Nastys

on the run when Missy Hyatt, the champs' escort, faked an injury.

Ice Train, much to Simmons' dismay, went to help out Missy, leaving Simmons to get double-teamed by Brian Knobs and Jerry Sags. Simmons called for help, but Ice Train was preoccupied with Missy.

"That was absolutely bogus," Simmons said. "I expected Train to be a lot smarter than that, but he fell for the oldest trick in the book. Besides, what does he want with that woman? Do you think for a second she'd help Train if he got hurt? No way. Listen, chivalry isn't dead, but it doesn't exist when there's a wrestling match going on."

The last straw for Simmons came when he and Ice Train planned a 9 a.m. workout session. Simmons was left waiting at the gym because Ice Train thought they were training at 9 *p.m.*

"Now you tell me what kind of athlete trains at 9:00 at night," Simmons said. "I've never had a 9 p.m. workout session in my entire life. You know what I think? I think Train just blew the whole thing off and wasn't even there at 9 p.m. He just wasn't willing to work hard enough. That may be fine for him, but don't let it affect *my* life like that!"

Ice Train pleads "not guilty" to these charges.

"I was there," he said. "Ron said 9 p.m., I heard it clear as day, and I was there at 9 p.m. I have one question: Was *he* there at 9 a.m.?"

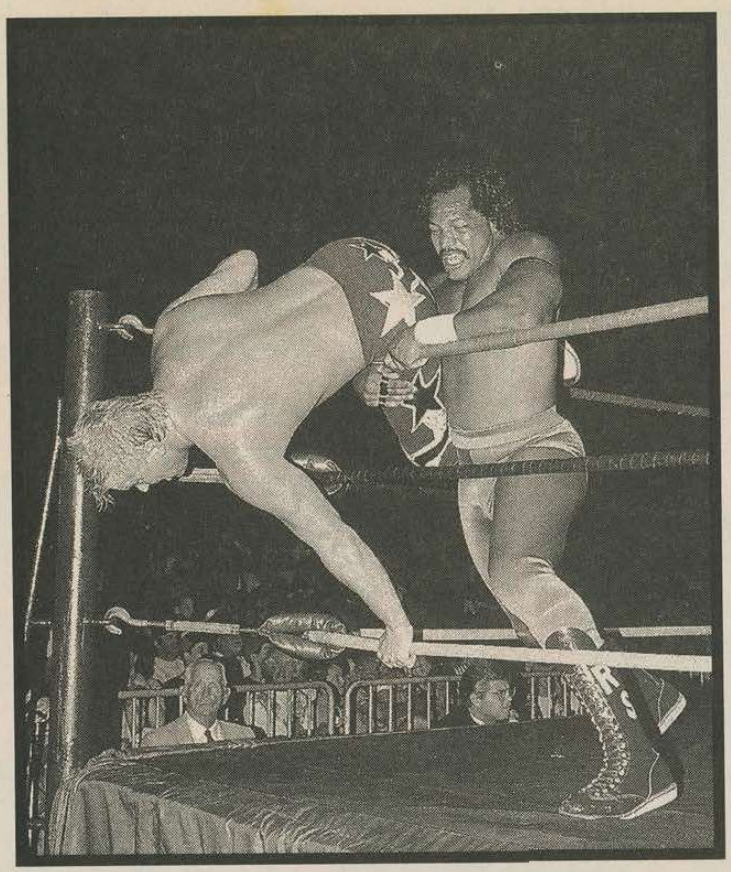
Yes, he was, said the gym operator. Ice Train was also there at 9 p.m., just as the gym was about to close. Apparently, this really *was* a misunderstanding. Unfortunately, it contributed to the breakup of a promising team.

Simmons doesn't see it this way.

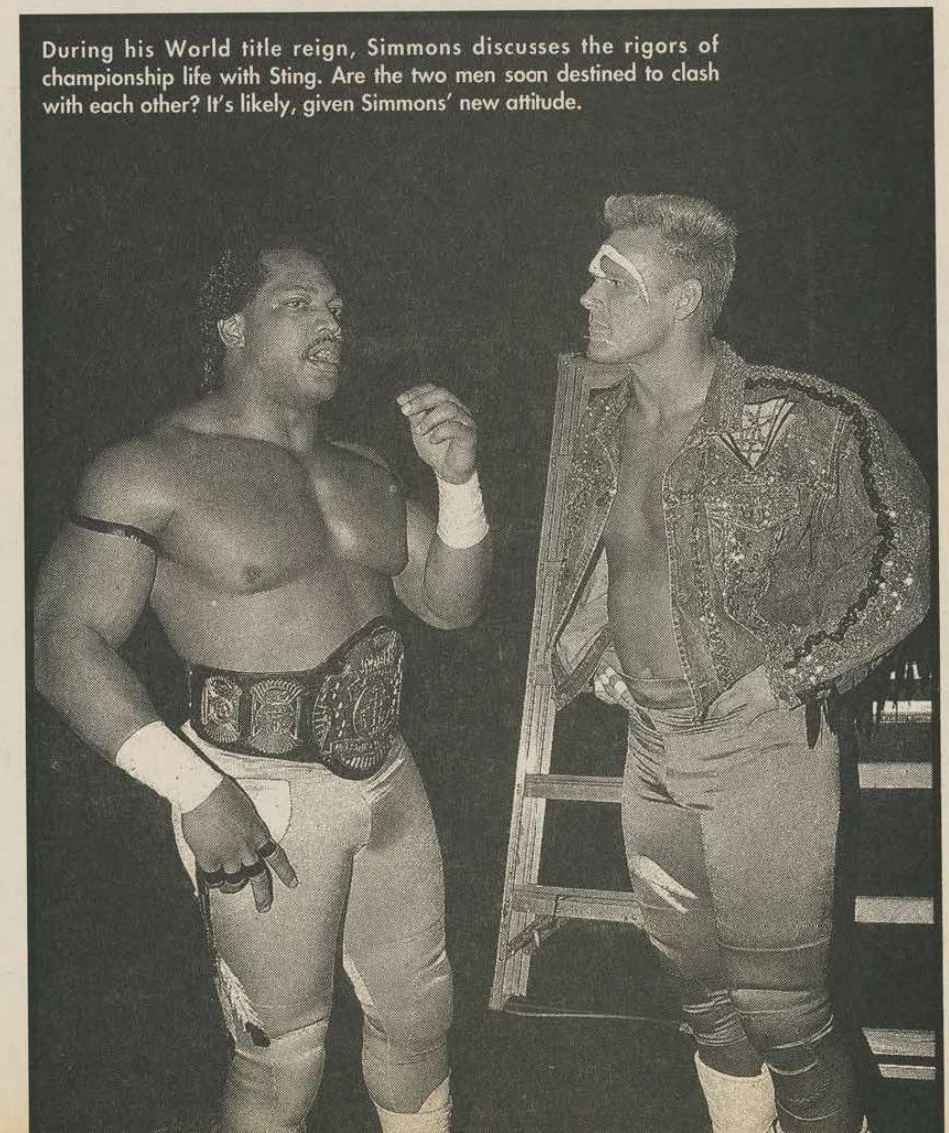
"This is the best thing that ever happened to me," Simmons said. "I can go my own way and not have the fans hounding me all the time. I got sick and tired of signing so many autographs. No more. This is the new Ron Simmons you're looking at. From now on, I don't make any excuses. I'm not going to need any."

You're not going to like the new Ron Simmons as much as the old one.

And he doesn't care ◆



Look for Simmons (dumping Eaton over the top rope) to display a much more aggressive attitude in the weeks and months to come.



During his World title reign, Simmons discusses the rigors of championship life with Sting. Are the two men soon destined to clash with each other? It's likely, given Simmons' new attitude.

HALLOWEEN HAVOC

In this word search puzzle, we've hidden the names of a dozen grapplers who competed at Halloween Havoc. Can you find them all? As usual, the letters of the words in the puzzle are not in a straight line. We've given you the solution to "Steve Austin" to get you started. Remember: A hidden word never crosses over any other hidden word. (Puzzle solution on page 34.)

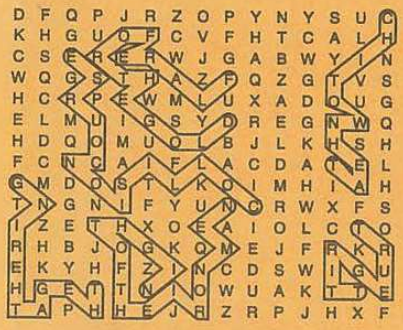
HIDDEN WORDS:

~~STEVE AUSTIN~~
CACTUS JACK
THE EQUALIZER
RIC FLAIR
CHARLIE NORRIS
PAUL ORNDORFF
LORD STEVEN REGAL
DUSTIN RHODES
RICK RUDE
SHOCKMASTER
STING
VADER

S H J B V A E W I T C C E J L
Z O M Q Z U G V S U S A H E M
C K D B K S E T I A J A T U Q
M A I V H P T R L F O R C A B
S T R O U A Z I N C I P K N L
R W E N L F Y T J O Y S I J I
B T R D R B F G L M R J W N Z
R S J O J W O T S D G X Y E S
T A B R S D E B V K S A R T H
L Y P O R I F D U D T L I V U
Q K N R G X U S H F E P N P B
P E E A V T R S T U V N G F J
I L D R X K E L C I E R A D L
A F R I C C D O N R E G L K F
V O L A H K T P H Y B O A Y Z

ANSWER TO CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE ON PAGE 19:

Starrcade 1983: "Flare For The Gold"
Starrcade 1987: "Chi-Town Heat"
Starrcade 1988: "True Gritt"
Starrcade 1989: "Night Of The Iron Men"
Starrcade 1990: "Collision Course"

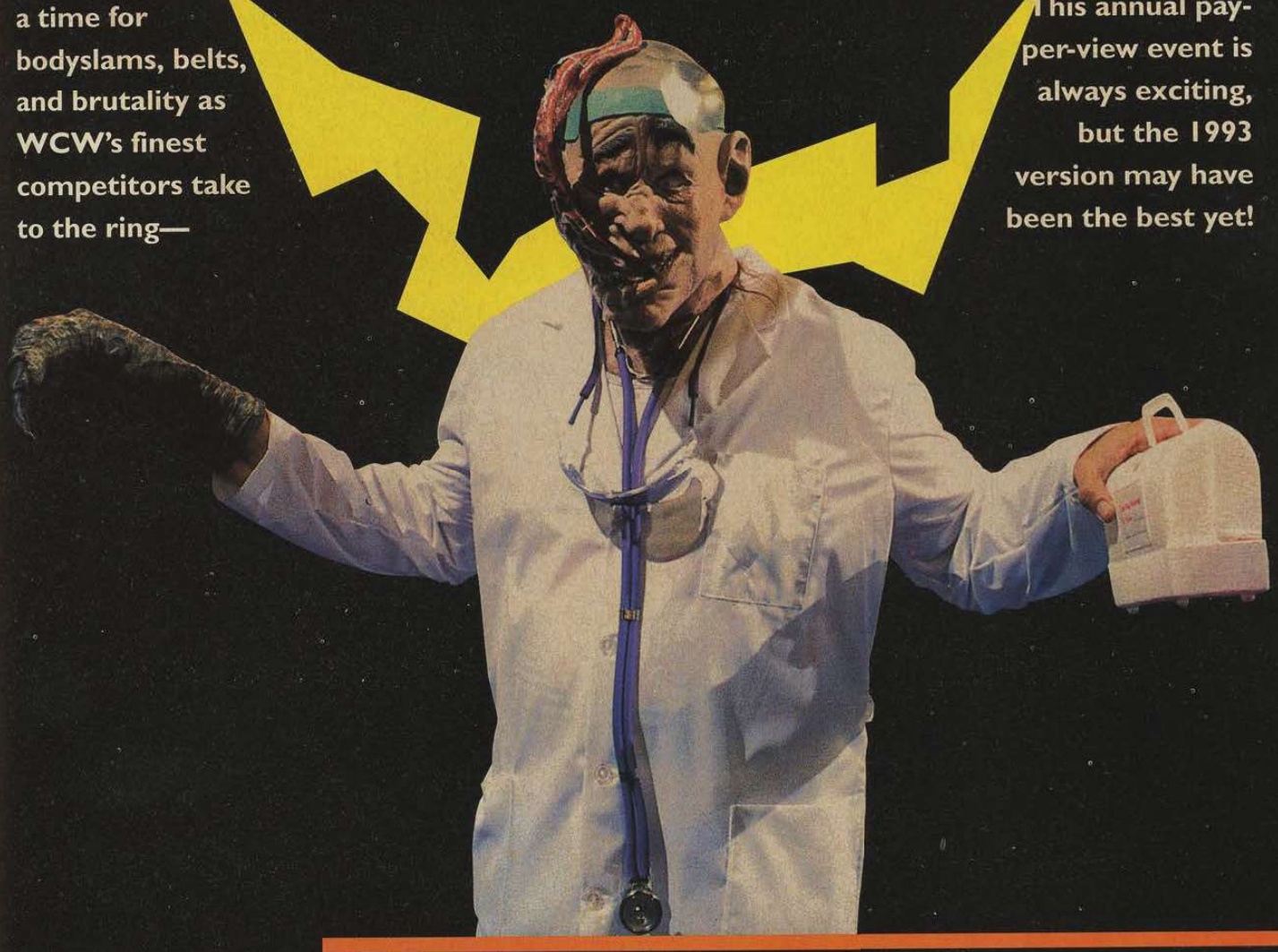


EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE

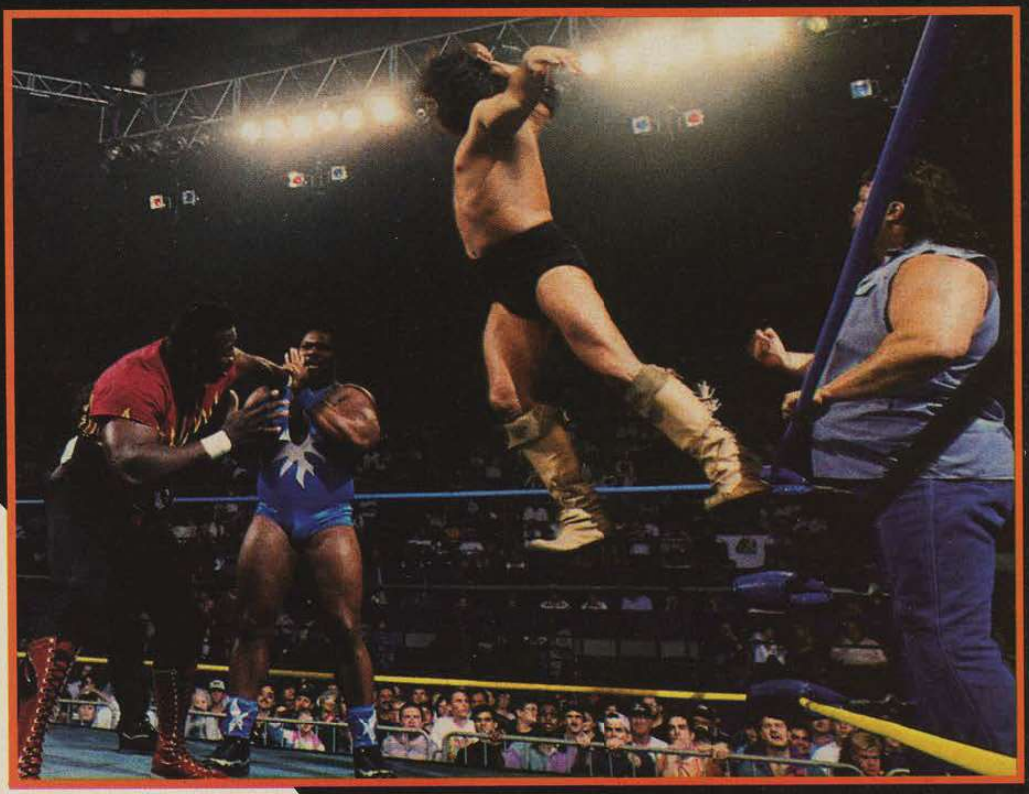
HALLOWEEN HAVOC

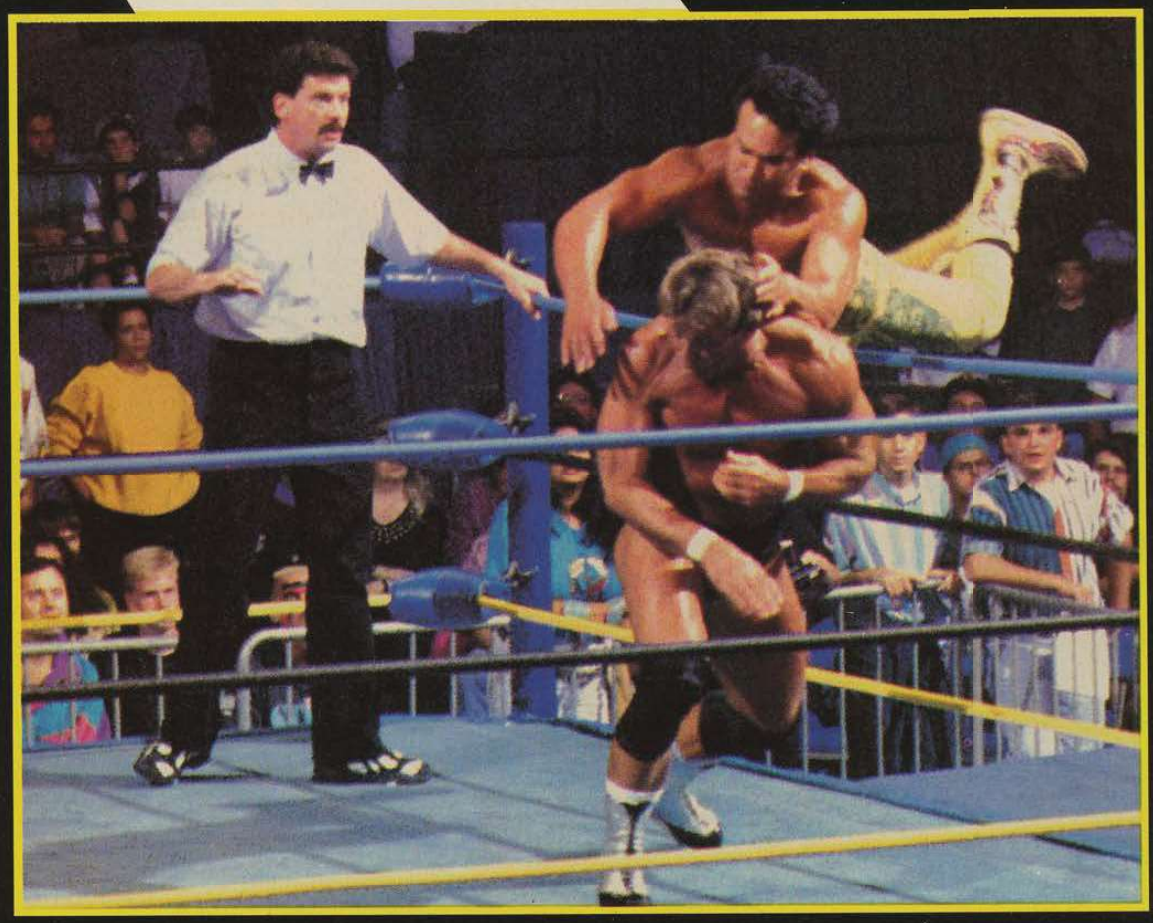
Halloween is a time for ghosts, goblins, and ghouls. It's also a time for bodyslams, belts, and brutality as WCW's finest competitors take to the ring—

and, in many cases, the arena floor!—for Halloween Havoc! This annual pay-per-view event is always exciting, but the 1993 version may have been the best yet!

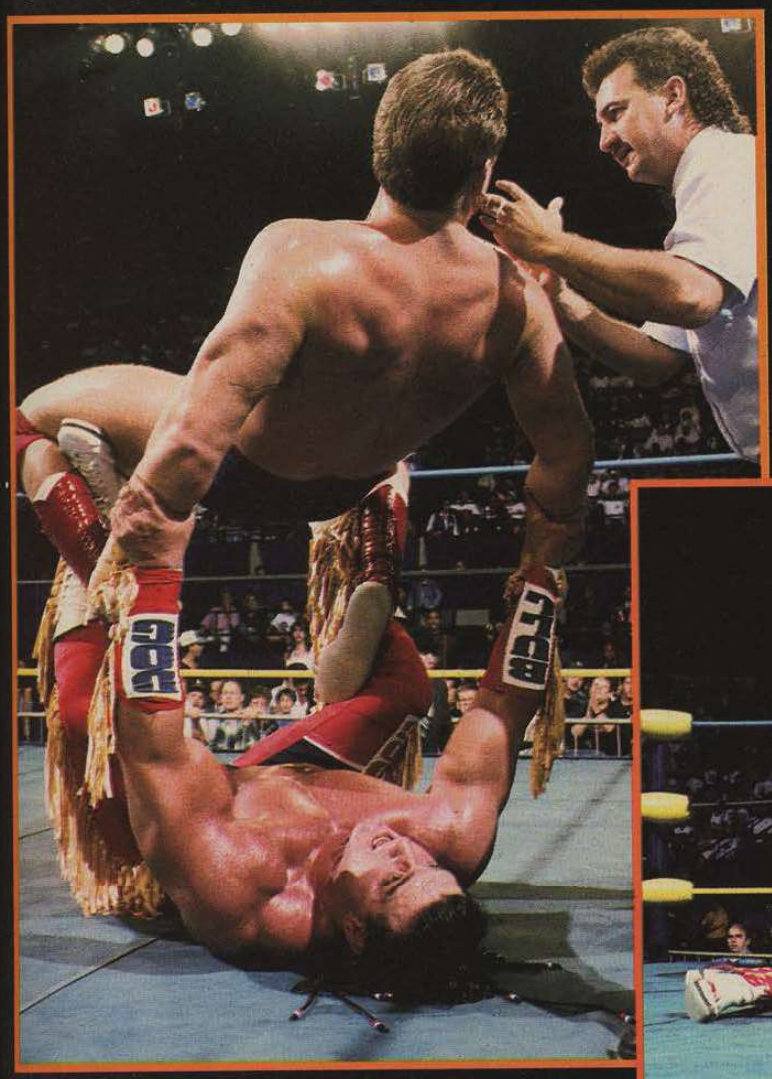


Ice Train helps increase the effectiveness of Charlie Norris' chop from the top rope on the way to a victory for themselves and Shockmaster over Harlem Heat and The Equalizer in 8:56.

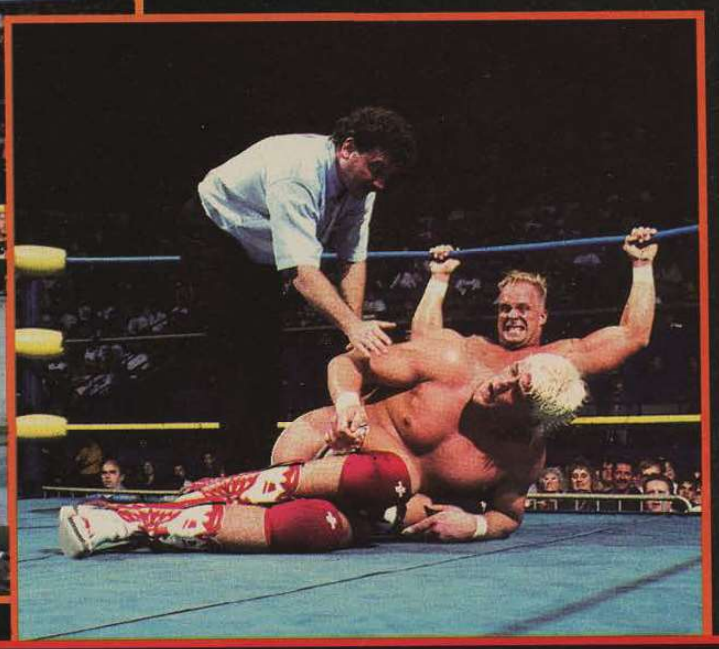




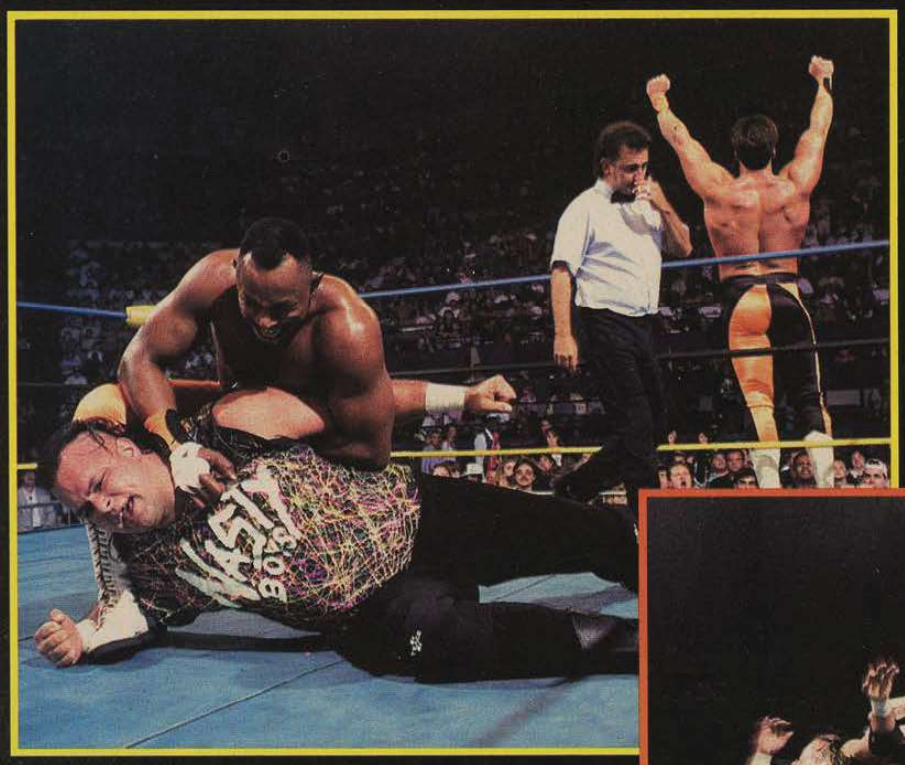
Ricky Steamboat executed this spectacular flying bodypress over the ring ropes against Paul Orndorff, but "The Dragon" lost the match at 18:32 via countout after absorbing a headbutt from the loaded mask of "Mr. Wonderful's" second, The Assassin.



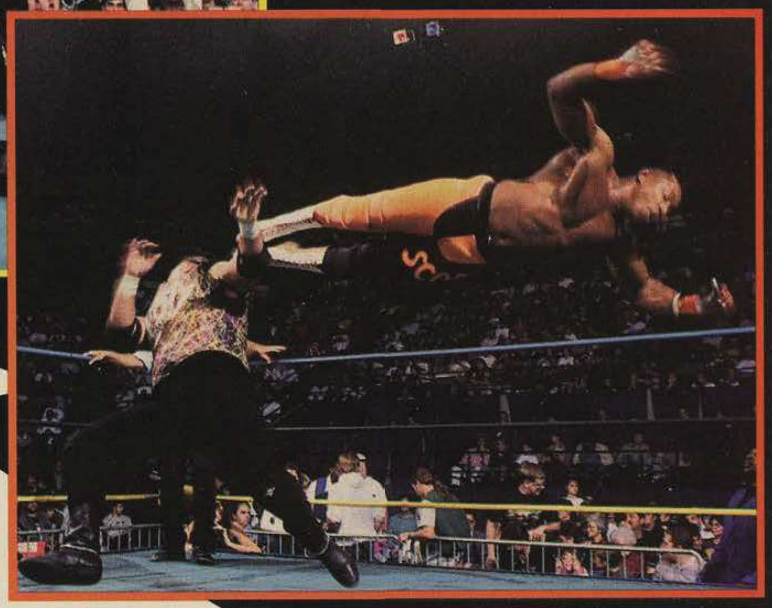
Davey Boy Smith displayed a superb scientific arsenal against TV champion Lord Steven Regal, but victory remained out of reach for the "British Bulldog": The two competitors grappled to a 15-minute draw.

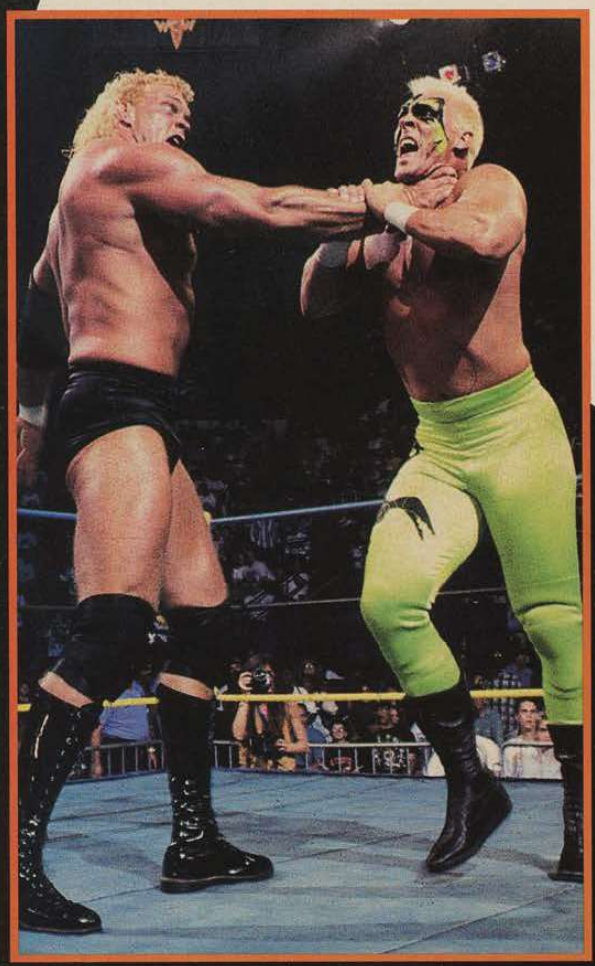


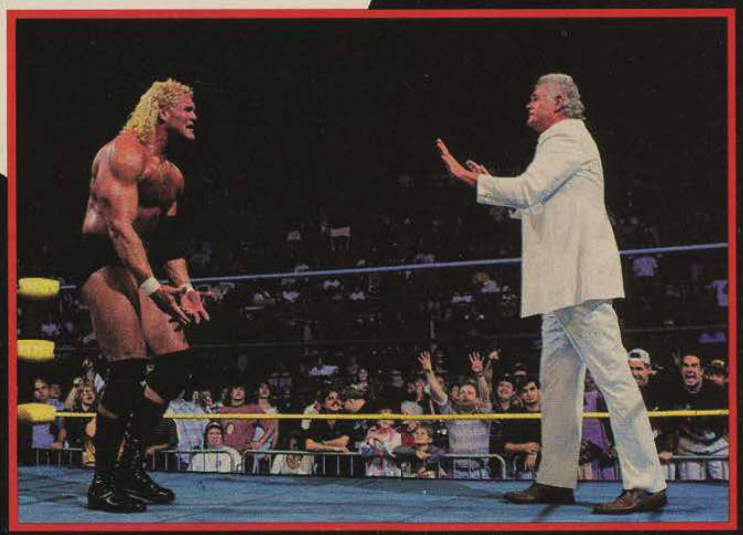
Steve Austin tried stunning U.S. champion Dustin Rhodes with illegal leverage (above right) and closed fists (right), but "The Natural" retained his championship by scoring the pin at the 14:24 mark.



2 Cold Scorpio attacked on the mat (left) and in the air (below), but he and Marcus Alexander Bagwell were unable to hold on to their World tag team title, dropping the belts to The Nasty Boys in 14:27.

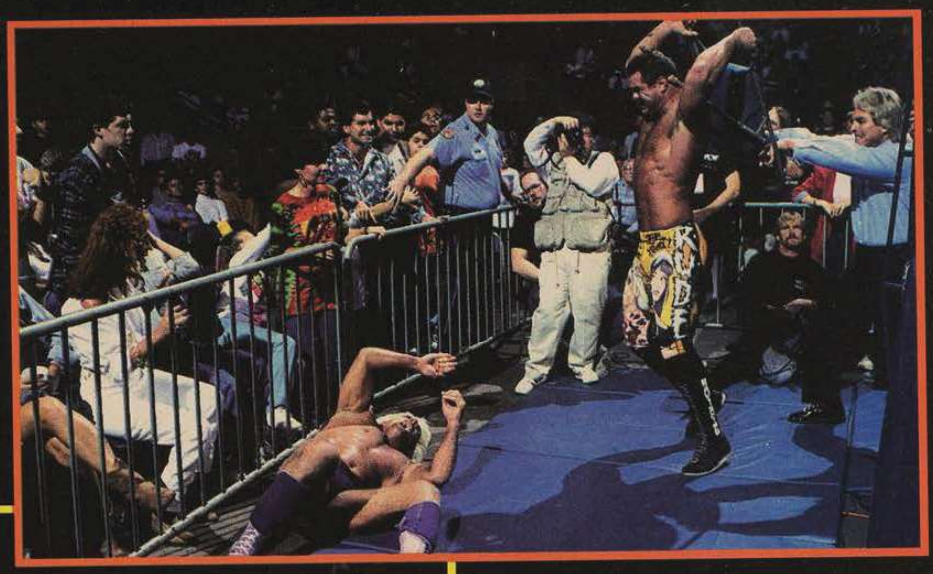


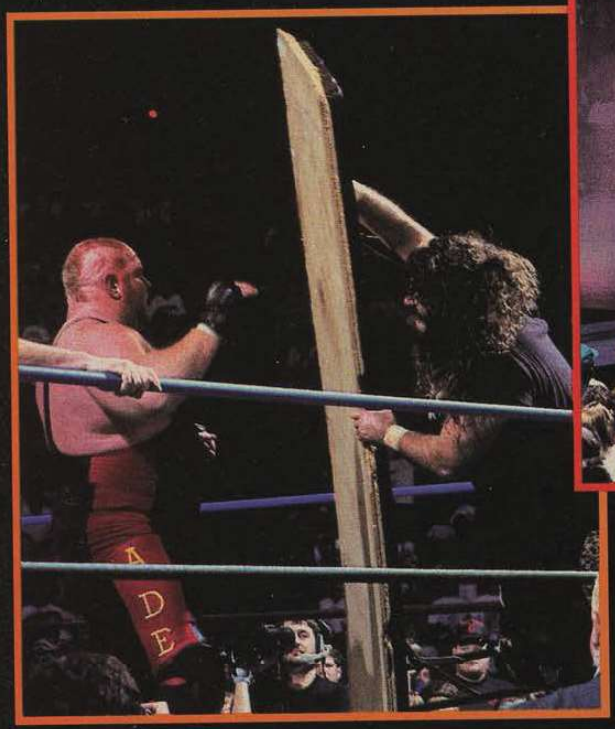




Sid Vicious appeared to have a victory over Sting well in hand (left) until Col. Parker's interference led to a quick win by the "Stinger" in 10:39. Sid was not at all pleased by the match result, and let Parker know in no uncertain terms (above)!

Rick Rude used a chair (below) and Ric Flair used his figure-four (right), and after 19:15 of intense action, the "Ravishing One" retained his belt by disqualification when Flair used a set of taped brass knuckles on Rude.





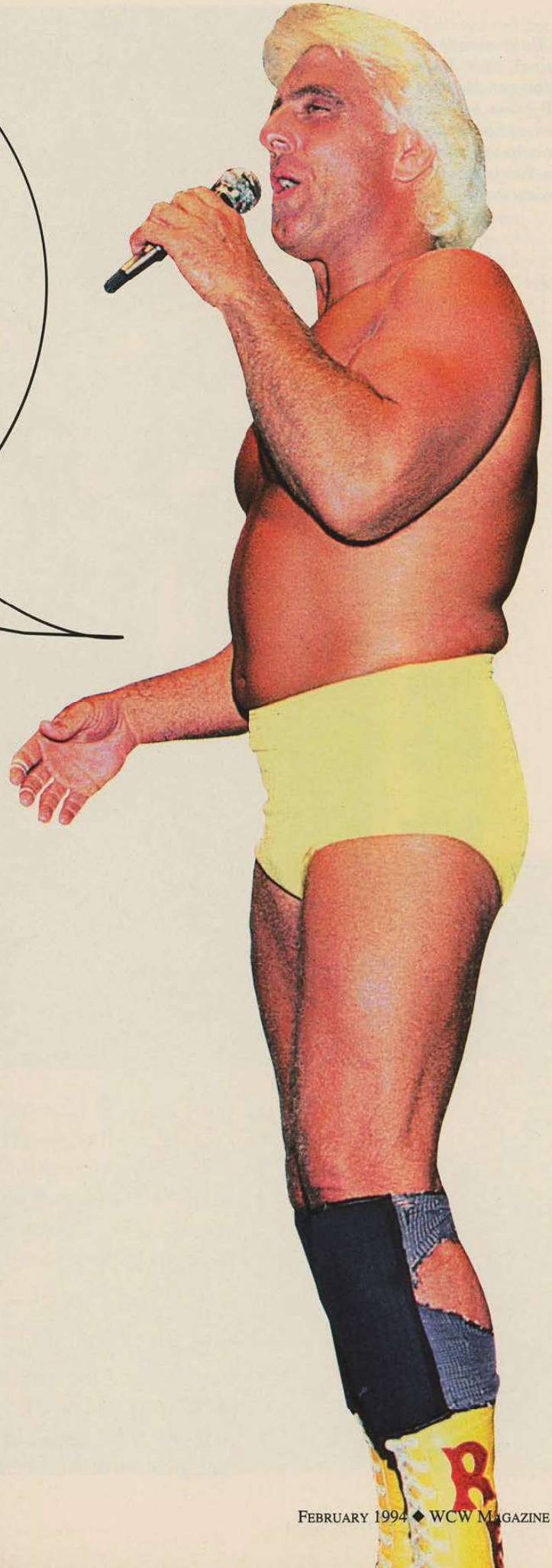
Whether using tables inside the ring (left) or chairs outside the ring (above), Cactus Jack and Vader engaged in one of the wildest brawls in wrestling history. The WCW World champion won this "Spin The Wheel, Make The Deal" Texas death match at 16:06 when his manager, Harley Race, zapped Jack with an electric cattle prod and Cactus was unable to answer the 10-count.

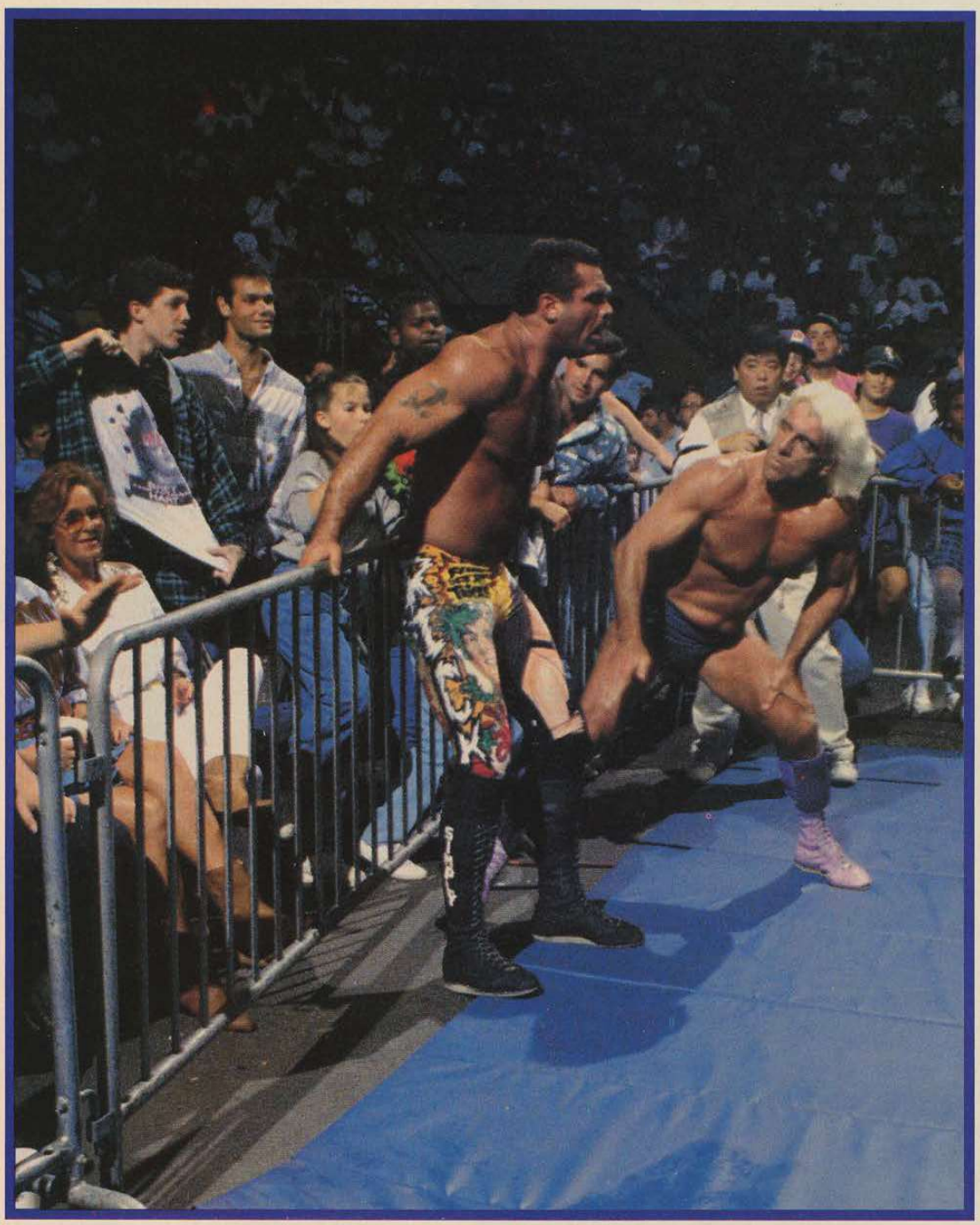
An End To Stylin' And Profilin'?

RIC FLAIR'S SOLEMN STARRCADE VOW:

"IF VADER BEATS ME, I'LL QUIT WRESTLING— FOREVER"

You have to beat the man to be the man. And if Vader beats the man at Starrcade '93, Ric Flair will retire. The end of a golden era of wrestling could be nearing an end!





Ric Flair wrestled well against Rick Rude at Halloween Havoc, but he'll have to do even better at Starrcade if he wants to wrestle again after that important pay-per-view event.

Ric Flair never expected the good times to last forever. In his rare insightful moments, Flair admits he never expected to be so prolific for so long in the sport he loves so much.

Twenty years.

Amazing.

The years flew by for the "Nature Boy." When Flair made his debut in 1973, how could he have guessed that he'd one day be ranked among the all-time greats? Ten World championships later, Flair can stake his claim as No. 1 and not draw a single snicker. Arguments? Inevitable. Outright denials? No way.

But he always knew there'd come a time when he'd walk out of the ring for the final time and never look back. Flair once vowed to himself that he'd never be one of those athletes who retires and unretires. His last match would be the last match.

He also vowed that he would know when to leave.

"I'll never accept mediocrity," Flair said. "When I can't be the man, I'll get out."

For the first time in his career, Flair isn't sure whether or not he can be the man. Losing his gold belt to Rick Rude discouraged him enormously, and the fact that he hasn't worn the WCW World title since 1991 hasn't evaded him.

That's why the 10th anniversary edition of Starrcade is the most important Starrcade of all for Flair. This is Flair's greatest test: a test of himself.

"If Vader beats me," Flair said, "I'll quit wrestling—forever."

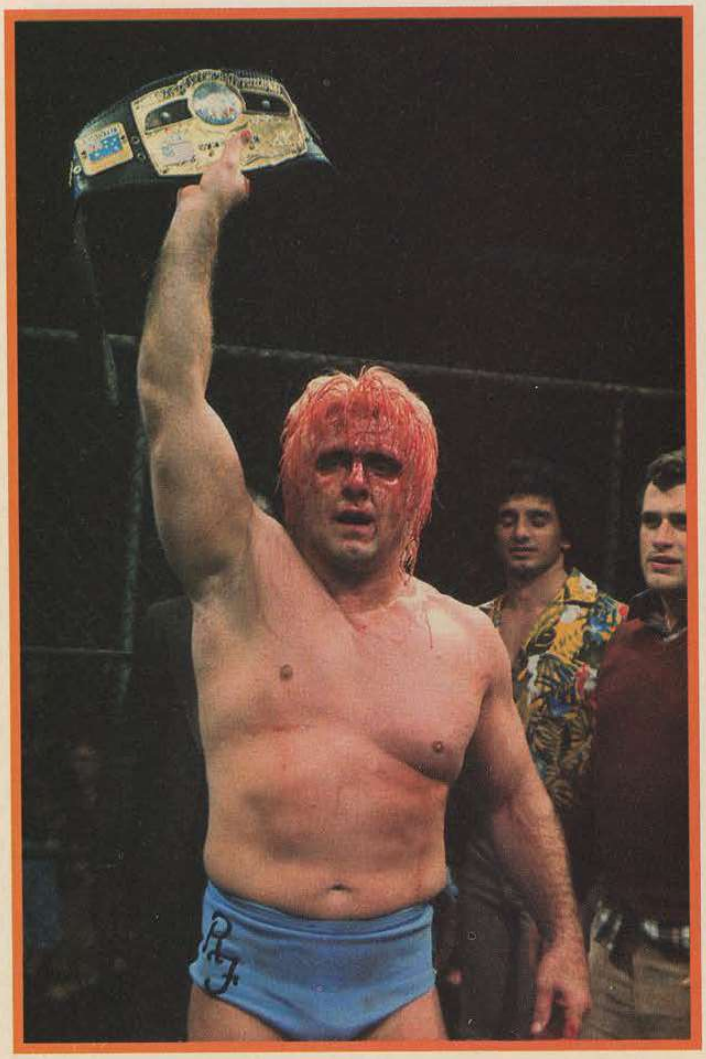
He isn't kidding. Flair doesn't want to be a journeyman. He refuses to be one of those gallant old-timers who hangs around and keeps collecting paychecks. Anything less than a World title isn't good enough for Flair, who is positively pained by the idea of being second best.

If Vader is the better man, fine. If Vader walks out of the ring with the WCW World title belt, fine. That will mark the end of a great career. The end of stylin' and profilin'. Both Vader and Flair like to say they're the man. If Vader wins, *he's* the man.

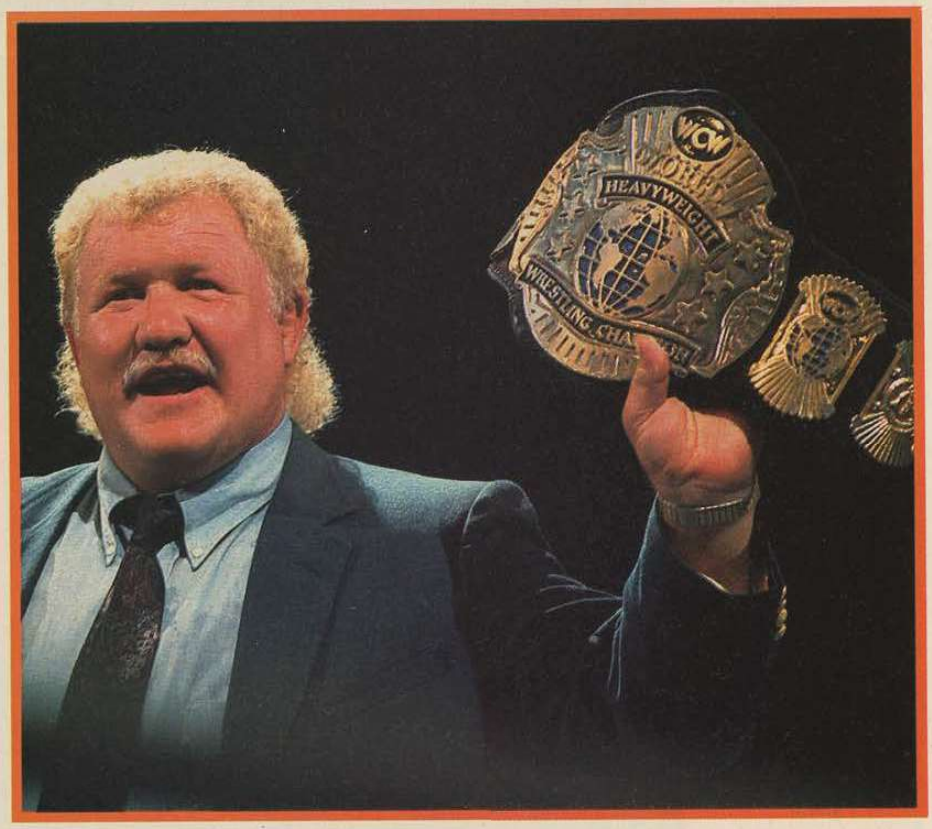
"It's as simple as that," Flair said. "And I don't want to see any crocodile tears. I saw the way people reacted when Michael Jordan retired. The press just wouldn't leave him alone. They kept asking, 'When are you coming back? When are you coming back?' Well, I'm gonna be just like Mike. I'm *not* coming back.

"Of course, there's just one thing: I don't plan on losing to Vader. I'm going for number 11, and I'm going to get it. But I'm not going to end up like [Harley] Race, wrestling far past my prime just to collect a paycheck. I don't need the money anymore."

Flair had no intention of disguising that shot at Vader's manager. On



Flair captured one of his first world titles from Harley Race at Starrcade '83 (left), effectively ending Race's wrestling career. Now that Race manages the WCW World champion, however (below), he's hoping to return the favor and end the "Nature Boy's" career!



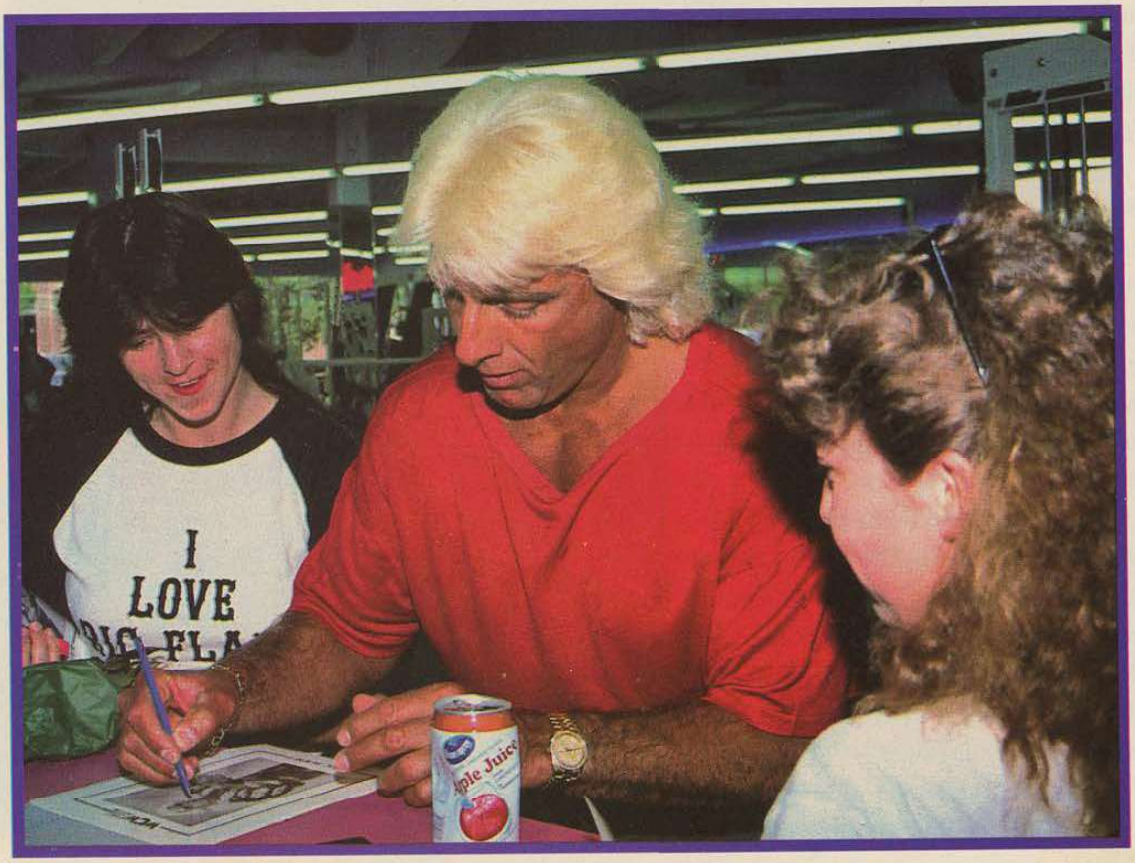
Race interfered for Vader at Clash of the Champions XXIV, and it cost him a beating at the hands of Davey Boy Smith. If he interferes at Starrcade, it could cost Flair his career!

November 24, 1983, at the first Starrcade, Flair defeated Race for the World title. That loss effectively ended Race's reign as a great champion. Although his career went on for several more years, Race never regained his previous status as a championship contender.

"I don't think he's forgotten it," Flair said. "In fact, I'm *sure* he hasn't forgotten it. I remind him every time I see him!"

Flair knows that what goes around comes around. Flair finished off Race. Now Race's man is trying to finish off Flair. Don't discount the importance of this factor.

"I've been waiting for this moment for a long time," Race said. "When my Vader power-bombs Flair and they wheel Flair out on a stretcher, just like they did to Cactus Jack, I'll know I've had my revenge. Flair was a cocky little bugger, but now he's finding out that



Flair signs autographs at his gym in Atlanta, Georgia. Depending on the outcome of Starrcade, he could soon be spending *all* his time there!

you meet the same people on your way down that you met on the way up."

Flair isn't so sure he's on the way down. He feels capable of beating any wrestler in the world. His victory over Barry Windham for the gold belt is proof of that. He lost the belt when Rude blasted him with a pair of brass knuckles while referee Nick Patrick was preoccupied with Fifi.

Vader, a seemingly invincible champion, has never defended the World title against Flair in the pay-per-view arena. It will be his most difficult challenge yet. Although Vader is more powerful and physically dangerous than Flair, the "Nature Boy" is cagier and has more experience.

But there's no denying this: A victory by Flair would be his greatest ever. This time, perhaps for the first time in his career, the odds are against the "Nature Boy."

Care to place your bets?

Wager with care.

Flair is a Starrcade master, having won two World titles at WCW's marquee event. He loves the spotlight, and knows Starrcade is the most highly anticipated event of the year. Winning at Starrcade is like winning the Super Bowl and the World Series.

It doesn't bother Flair that Vader has seriously injured several opponents. Nor does he care that Race will be at ringside, ready to aid Vader at a moment's notice. Flair knows this is a rare situation where the challenger has more to lose than the champion. He can't be bothered by intangible factors.

"This is my *career* we're talking about," Flair said. "I never said I'd wrestle forever, but I'd like to keep going a few more years."

After Starrcade '93, we'll know whether this golden era of wrestling will, in fact, continue for several more years—or come to an end forever. ◆

STARRCADE '93: FIVE TITLES ON THE LINE

The Ric Flair vs. Vader match isn't the only title bout at Starrcade. In fact, five titles will be on the line at this 10th anniversary celebration.

In the co-main event, arch-rivals Davey Boy Smith and Rick Rude will battle for Rude's World heavyweight title (see related story on page 52). Plus: Dustin Rhodes will defend his U.S. title against "Stunning" Steve Austin in a best-of-three-falls match; Ricky Steamboat will be out for revenge against TV champion Lord Steven Regal; and The Nasty Boys will defend the World tag team belts against Hawk and Sting.

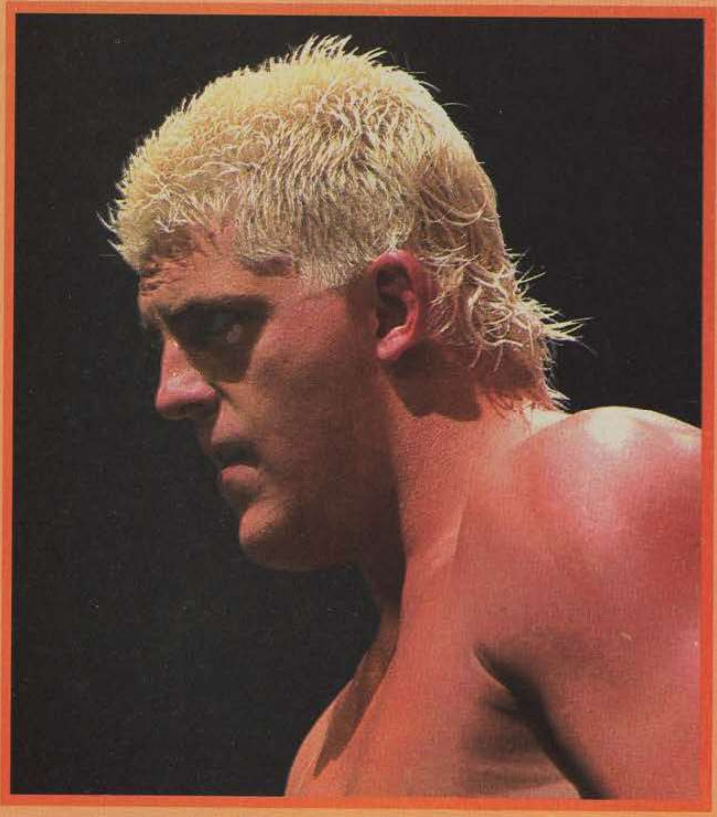
"Wrestling with Hawk will be a great thrill," Sting said. "He and Animal formed one of the greatest tag teams ever, and it's going to be an honor to have the Road Warrior on my side. Listen, I wouldn't want to be Sags or Knobs, no way, no how!"

"Hawk's a dirty, rotten loser," said Missy Hyatt, the Nastys' escort. "Sting's cute, but he's got nothing on The Nasty Boys. This is gonna be a slaughter."

Dustin Rhodes, meanwhile, knows he'll face a tough test against Austin.

"I'm willing to admit that maybe I got a little lucky against Austin at Halloween Havoc, but a man has to take advantage of his opportunities," Rhodes said, referring to the incident where Austin thought he had the match won and Rhodes rolled him up from behind. "But he had no right to attack me with the belt after that match, and now I'm going to leave no questions unanswered."

And Starrcade '93 will leave no belt undefended. Don't miss out: Be sure to contact your local cable operator today for details on how to order this historic event!



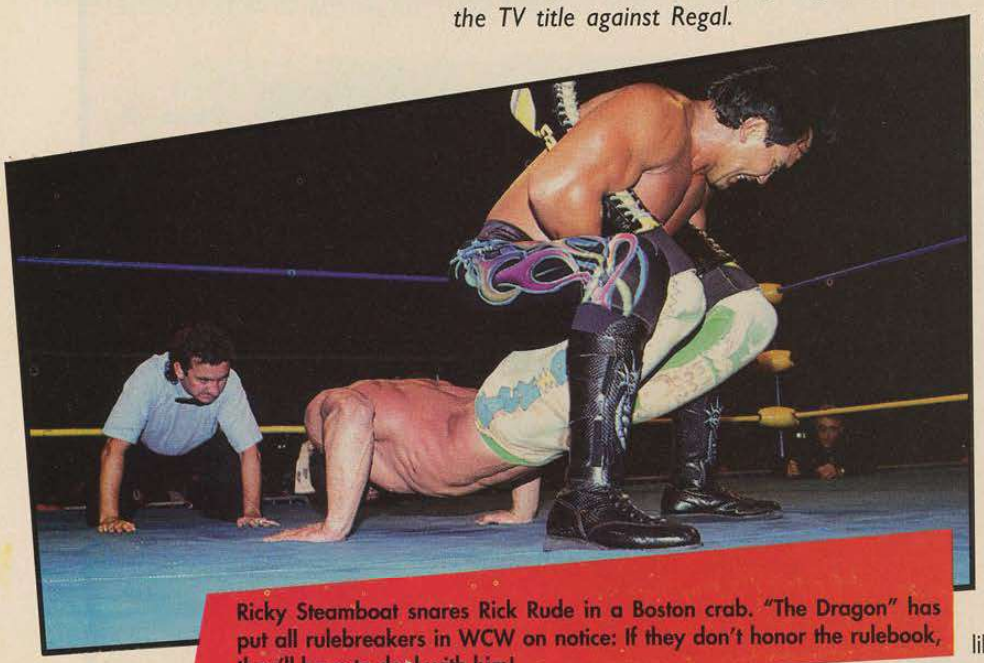
Dustin Rhodes will face a stiff U.S. title challenge from Steve Austin at Starrcade.

The 3rd Degree

RICKY STEAMBOAT

When Ricky Steamboat steps into the ring, honesty and integrity always follow. There isn't a more reliable man in WCW than "The Dragon." As Sting once said, "You can always count on Ricky. He'd never turn his back on a friend or intentionally break a rule. He's one of the few wrestlers left who cares about ***how*** *he wins. He's one of the last of a dying breed."*

Unfortunately for Steamboat, most of his opponents ***don't*** *care how they win. Take Lord Steven Regal, for example. On the eve of Fall Brawl '93, Steamboat was preparing to defend the TV title against Regal.*



Ricky Steamboat snares Rick Rude in a Boston crab. "The Dragon" has put all rulebreakers in WCW on notice: If they don't honor the rulebook, they'll have to deal with him!

Regal's preparations included attacking Steamboat on ***WCW Saturday Night*** *and severely injuring the left side of "The Dragon's" rib cage. That didn't prevent Steamboat from taping his ribs and wrestling valiantly the following night. He was on the verge of victory when Sir William, Regal's manager, slugged him with an umbrella. Regal covered Steamboat for the three-count and won the belt.*

Steamboat's luck wasn't any better at Halloween Havoc. This time, Steamboat wrestled Paul Orndorff, and this time, The Assassin interfered. Steamboat had Orndorff pinned with nearly 17 minutes gone in this classic bout, but referee Randy Anderson was preoccupied with The Assassin. Moments later, Assassin loaded his mask and headbutted Steamboat. Orndorff got the victory.

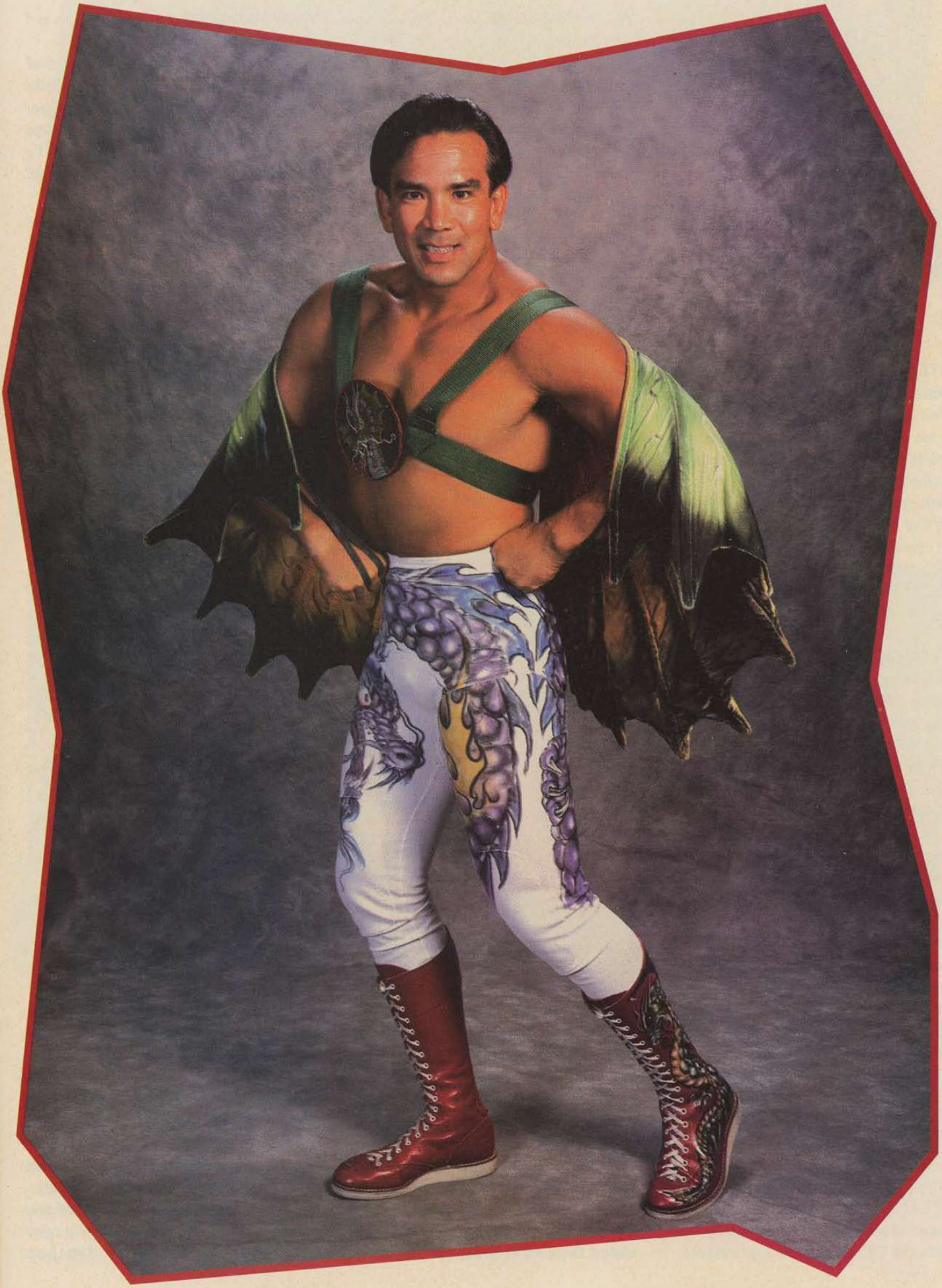
Steamboat usually keeps his emotions on an even keel. He knows that getting too high or too low can only hurt an athlete. But this time he's steaming mad. It would be one thing if Steamboat was outwrestled and lost, but he's losing most of his matches because of outside interference.

"To coin an old movie phrase, Steamboat is mad as hell and he's not going to take it anymore. Why should he?" said WCW MAGAZINE's Dave Rosenbaum, who spoke with "The Dragon" recently in Atlanta. "I've never seen Ricky like this. It's almost like he's a different person. Maybe it's good for him. I'm interested in seeing what happens."

WCW MAGAZINE: This might sound like a setup, and maybe it is, but you've always seemed like a man who keeps things at an even keel. Doesn't anything ever upset you?

RICKY STEAMBOAT: Boy, Dave, that's a hanging curveball if I've ever seen one! Sure, there are plenty of things that upset me. I just try to keep them out of my mind so I can remain focused on the job at hand.

WCW MAGAZINE: But surely ...



STEAMBOAT: Sorry to interrupt you, Dave, but it's not going to be all that hard. You want me to react? I'll react. There are a lot of things that have been building up inside of me for the past few months, and sometimes you just have to blow off a little steam. Otherwise you can explode.

WCW MAGAZINE: I'm sure a lot of this has to do with Lord Steven Regal.

STEAMBOAT: He's no Lord. Not to me.

WCW MAGAZINE: Judging by a genealogical chart we printed a few issues ago, Regal probably isn't a Lord to anyone.

STEAMBOAT: Besides, I always thought British royalty had class and respect for doing things the right way. I thought there was such a thing as order and rules. Regal and William have none of that.

WCW MAGAZINE: You won't even call him Sir, will you?

STEAMBOAT: Why should I? Why should I show him any respect? The way they've spat on this country—I mean, since when are England and the U.S. feuding? We're friends, and it's going to stay that way for a long time. England is one of the most beautiful places in the world. There's nothing like the British countryside. I just want to know where Regal came from.

WCW MAGAZINE: Blackpool. He says he comes from Blackpool, and we have no reason to not believe him.

STEAMBOAT: Forget about Blackpool. I want to know what gene pool he came from.

WCW MAGAZINE: That's very good. Anyway, back to our subject. Regal and Sir William get your goat, don't they?

STEAMBOAT: There's the understatement of the year! Take the way Regal stole the TV title from me, for instance.

WCW MAGAZINE: Stole? That's a harsh word for you.

STEAMBOAT: Not harsh enough. And could you believe what William said?

WCW MAGAZINE: What did he say?

STEAMBOAT: He credited me for giving Regal a good match, but said his man's superior skills came through. Can you believe that?

WCW MAGAZINE: I guess so.

STEAMBOAT: Well, I can't. You know what came through? William's umbrella, that's what came through. You know what also came through? Regal was so gutless, he was so scared about wrestling me at full strength, that he attacked me the night before and nearly broke my ribs. You call that a champion? I don't.

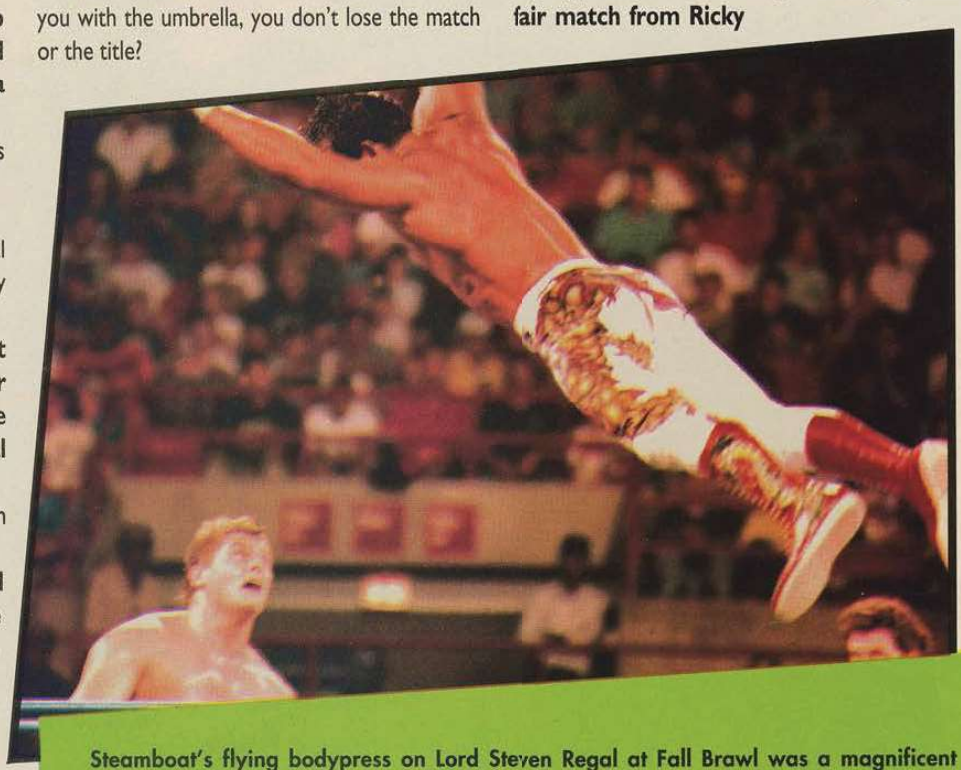
WCW MAGAZINE: If Sir William doesn't hit you with the umbrella, you don't lose the match or the title?

WCW MAGAZINE: You know, it seems as if you can't get a clean match.

STEAMBOAT: You've noticed that, too? Well, it's getting me more than a little angry. Orndorff was pinned. One, two, three. He was laid out and the match was over, but the referee was distracted by Assassin. What was in Assassin's mask? That's what I want to know.

WCW MAGAZINE: That's what everyone wants to know. It was something, I'm sure about that.

STEAMBOAT: And he got away with it. That's what bothers me. I've always tried to wrestle fairly and follow the rules. Some people call me a goody-two-shoes, but that's okay. It means I do things the right way, and that's always the best way. My opponents know they'll always get a fair match from Ricky



Steamboat's flying bodypress on Lord Steven Regal at Fall Brawl was a magnificent maneuver, but Regal's rulebreaking helped him capture the TV title from "The Dragon."

STEAMBOAT: Of course not. I was about 10 seconds away from victory when William stuck his nose into my business. I didn't like it for one second.

WCW MAGAZINE: Were you mad about not getting the rematch at Halloween Havoc?

STEAMBOAT: It didn't matter. I'll get other shots at Regal. But I'll tell you what did bother me.

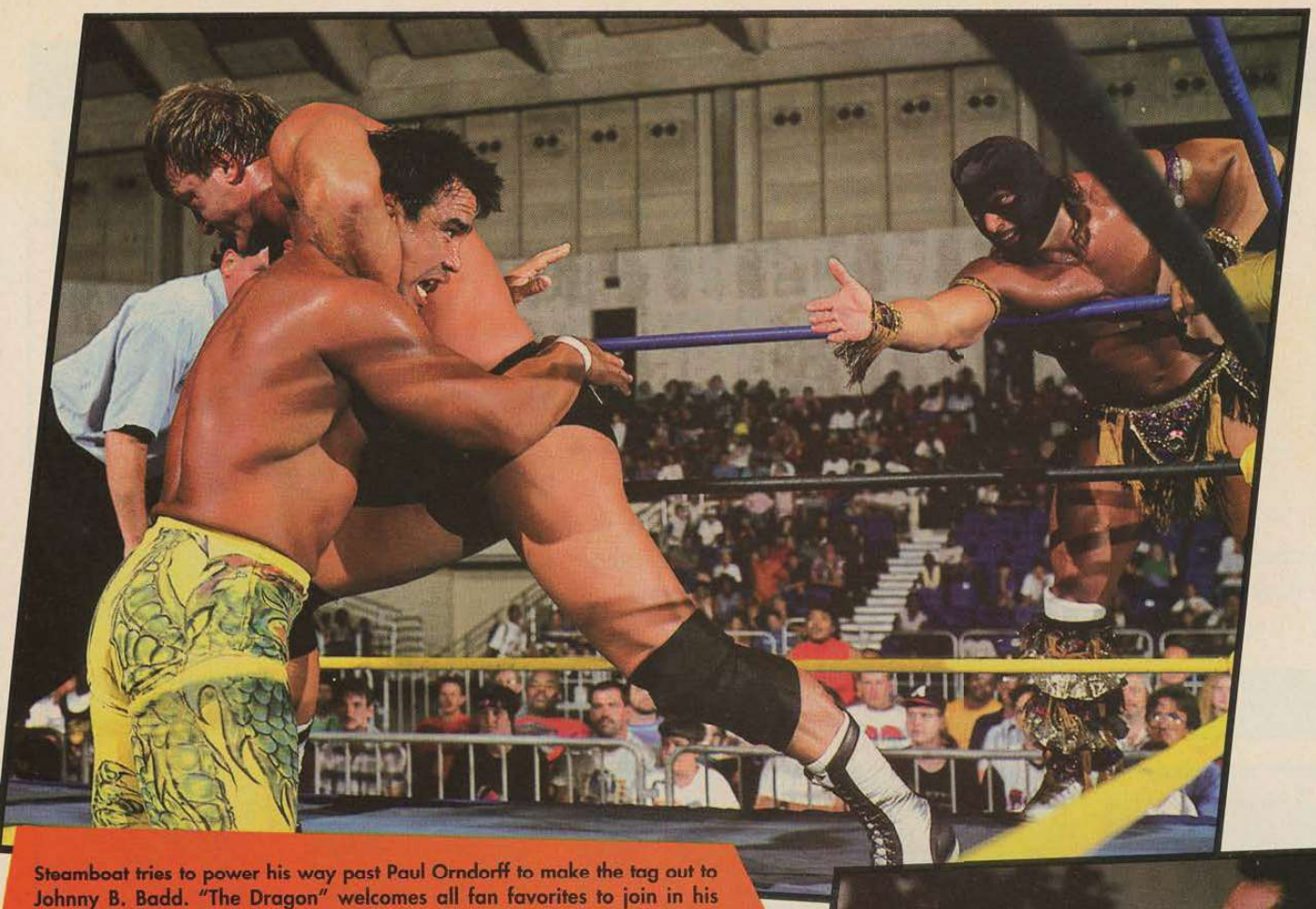
WCW MAGAZINE: Go ahead.

STEAMBOAT: What bothered me was the way Assassin interfered in my match against Orndorff at Halloween Havoc.

"The Dragon" Steamboat. But then they use it against me. People try to take advantage of my good nature.

WCW MAGAZINE: But what can you do about it?

STEAMBOAT: Well, I've thought about that for a long time. What can I do about it without compromising my integrity? It's not an easy question to answer. The answer for some people is to just change their ways, forget about the fans and the rules, and get revenge. You know, get bitter. But I'm not bitter, I'm just



Steamboat tries to power his way past Paul Orndorff to make the tag out to Johnny B. Badd. "The Dragon" welcomes all fan favorites to join in his renewed campaign against rulebreaking.

disappointed. Listen, I know there's only so much the WCW officials can do about it. A referee only has two eyes and it's been proven that two referees don't make a match much cleaner. There's really only one answer.

WCW MAGAZINE: And what's that?

STEAMBOAT: Revenge. Revenge is sweet, Dave. It's the only way. The way I see it, the only times I lose matches is when my opponent cheats or somebody interferes. The only times. But I'm not going to stoop to their level. No way. That's not me. I have a child who looks up to his father and I'm not going to disappoint him. He's more important to me than any TV title.

WCW MAGAZINE: It almost seems as if you're backing yourself into a corner. What can be done?

STEAMBOAT: Right here, right now, I'm declaring war on every rulebreaker in WCW. I don't care if a man has never wrestled me, if he breaks the rules or has other people interfere in his matches, he's going to have to deal with me.

WCW MAGAZINE: Kind of like a sheriff?

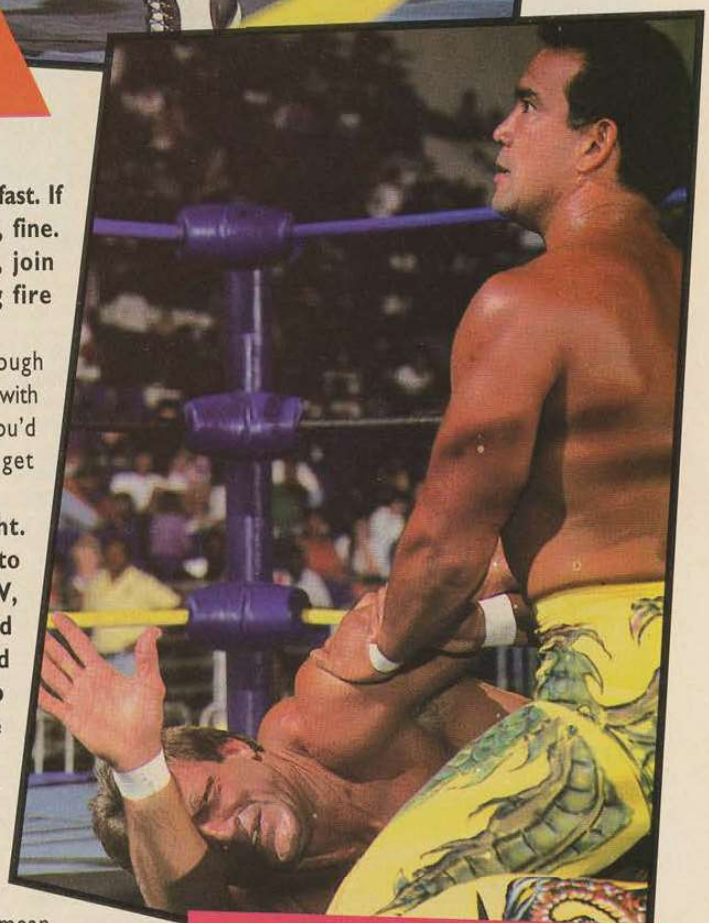
STEAMBOAT: Call it what you want. I'm cleaning up this mess—and fast. If anybody wants to join me, fine. Sting, Dustin, Davey Boy, join the posse. We're fighting fire with fire.

WCW MAGAZINE: Although you're not exactly fighting fire with fire, are you? If you were, you'd break the rules, too, and get revenge that way.

STEAMBOAT: That's right. But let this be a warning to every rulebreaker in WCW, from Regal to Orndorff, and that includes Assassin and William: If you want to break the rules, you're going to deal with me. I'll be in your face every second of the day. From now on, there are no free rides.

WCW MAGAZINE: You mean business, don't you?

STEAMBOAT: I've never been one to fool around. You'd better believe I mean business. And I'm starting now. ◆



"The Dragon" looks to the fans for strength and support—and has received both in abundance over the years.

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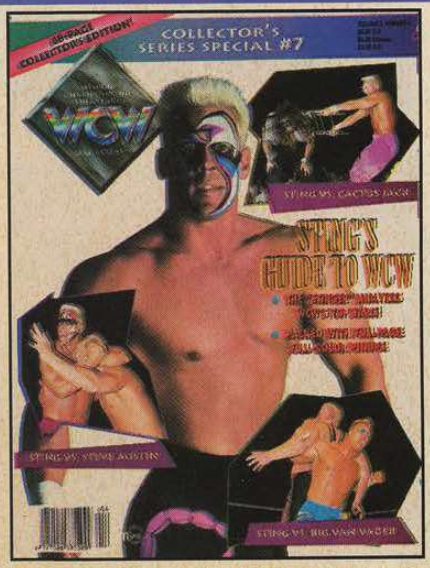

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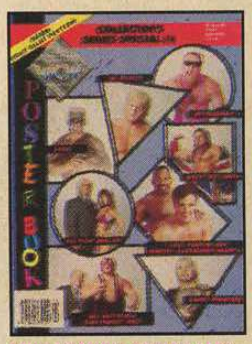

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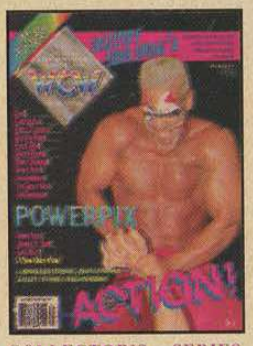

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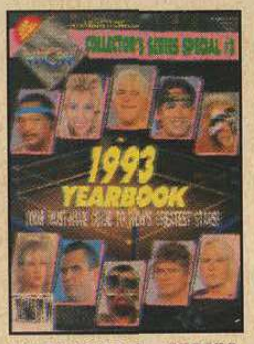

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WCW CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*This is a complete listing of WCW arena cards confirmed at press time. Cities, dates, and arenas are subject to change. Be sure to watch **WCW Saturday Night** and **WCW Main Event** on TBS, plus syndicated WCW broadcasts on your local stations, for information on when WCW will be visiting your area!*

December

13—ATLANTA, GA
Center Stage Theater
TV Taping
14—KENNESAW, GA
Crystal Chandelier
21—KENNESAW, GA
Crystal Chandelier
27—CHARLOTTE, NC
Independence Arena
Starrcade '93
28—WINSTON-SALEM, NC
Coliseum Annex
28—CULLMAN, AL
Civic Center
28—KENNESAW, GA
Crystal Chandelier
29—RALEIGH, NC
Dorton Arena
29—GADSDEN, AL
Coliseum
30—COLUMBIA, SC
The Township
30—SHEFFIELD, AL
Rec Center

January

4—GAINESVILLE, GA
Georgia Mts.Center
TV Taping
4—KENNESAW, GA
Crystal Chandelier
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WCW MAIN EVENT
KASN Little Rock, Arkansas (Saturdays, 7 p.m.)
WCLS Columbus, Ohio (Saturdays, 10 a.m.)
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WTAT Charleston, South Carolina (Saturdays, noon)
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WCW ON SPORTSOUTH CABLE
WCW Main Event Wednesday nights
9 p.m. Eastern time

WCW IN CANADA
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WCW Worldwide on CFTO
Saturdays at midnight (Eastern time)
Canadian Power Hour on RDS
Saturdays at 10:30 p.m., Mondays at 6:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.; times subject to frequent change due to live programming. Check local listings (all times Eastern).

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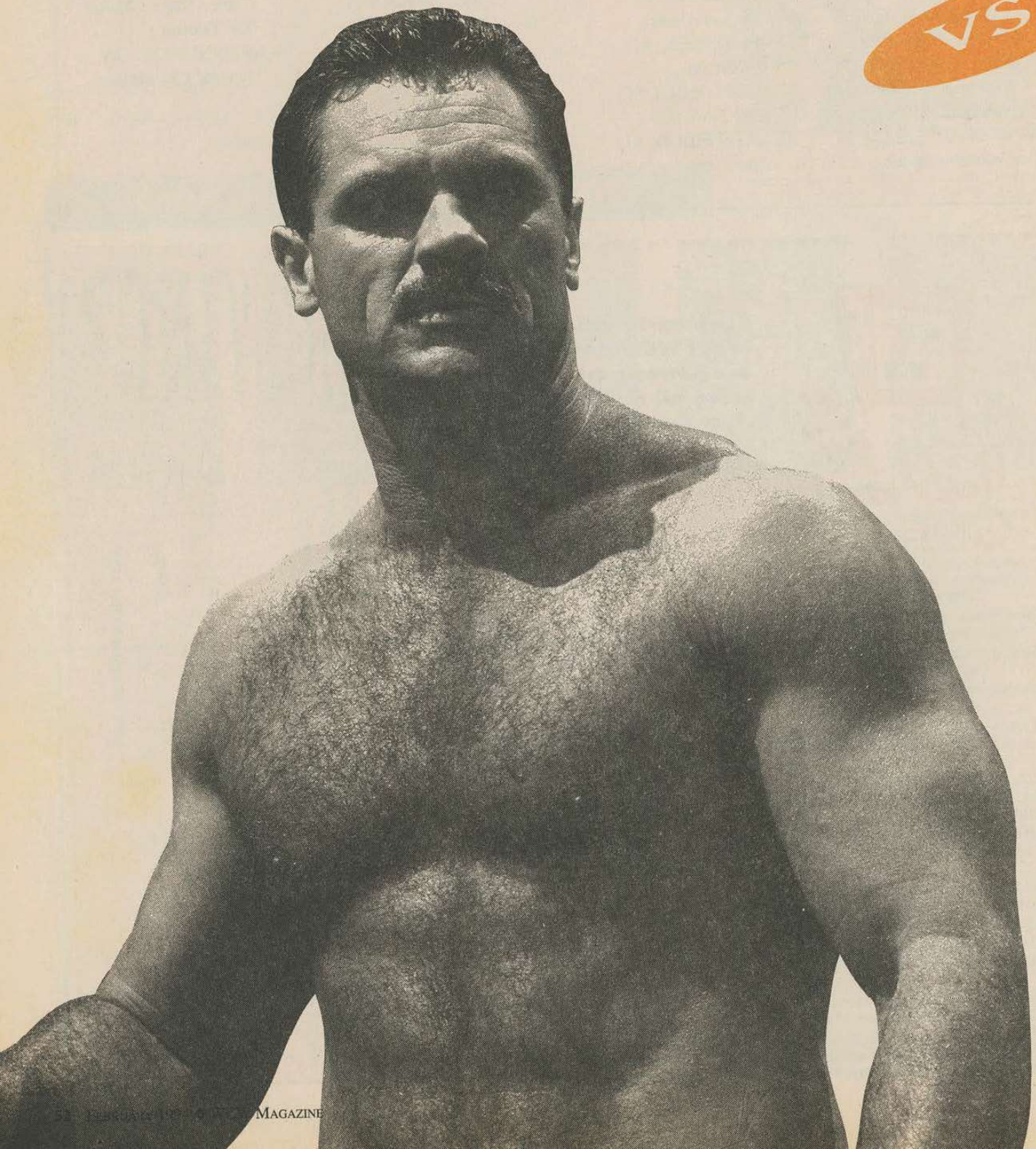
WHY THE HATRED WILL NEVER SUBSIDE

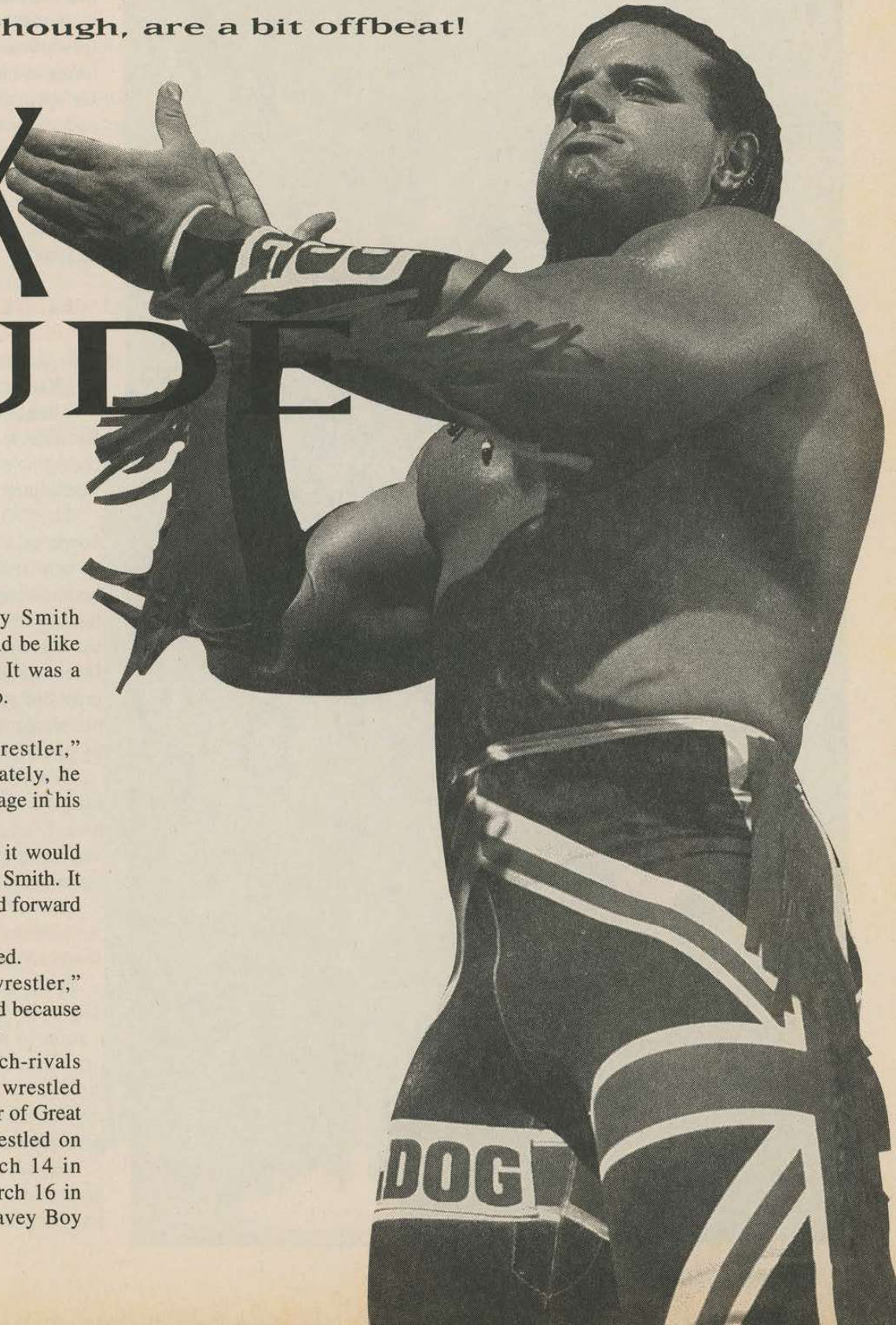
DAVEY BOY SMITH

VS.



Two of the greatest wrestlers in WCW are also arch-rivals. It will be that way from now on. Rick Rude hates Davey Boy Smith and Davey Boy Smith hates Rick Rude. The reasons, though, are a bit offbeat!

RICK RUDE



By Dave Rosenbaum

For years, Davey Boy Smith wondered what it would be like to wrestle Rick Rude. It was a challenge he looked forward to.

But he was disappointed.

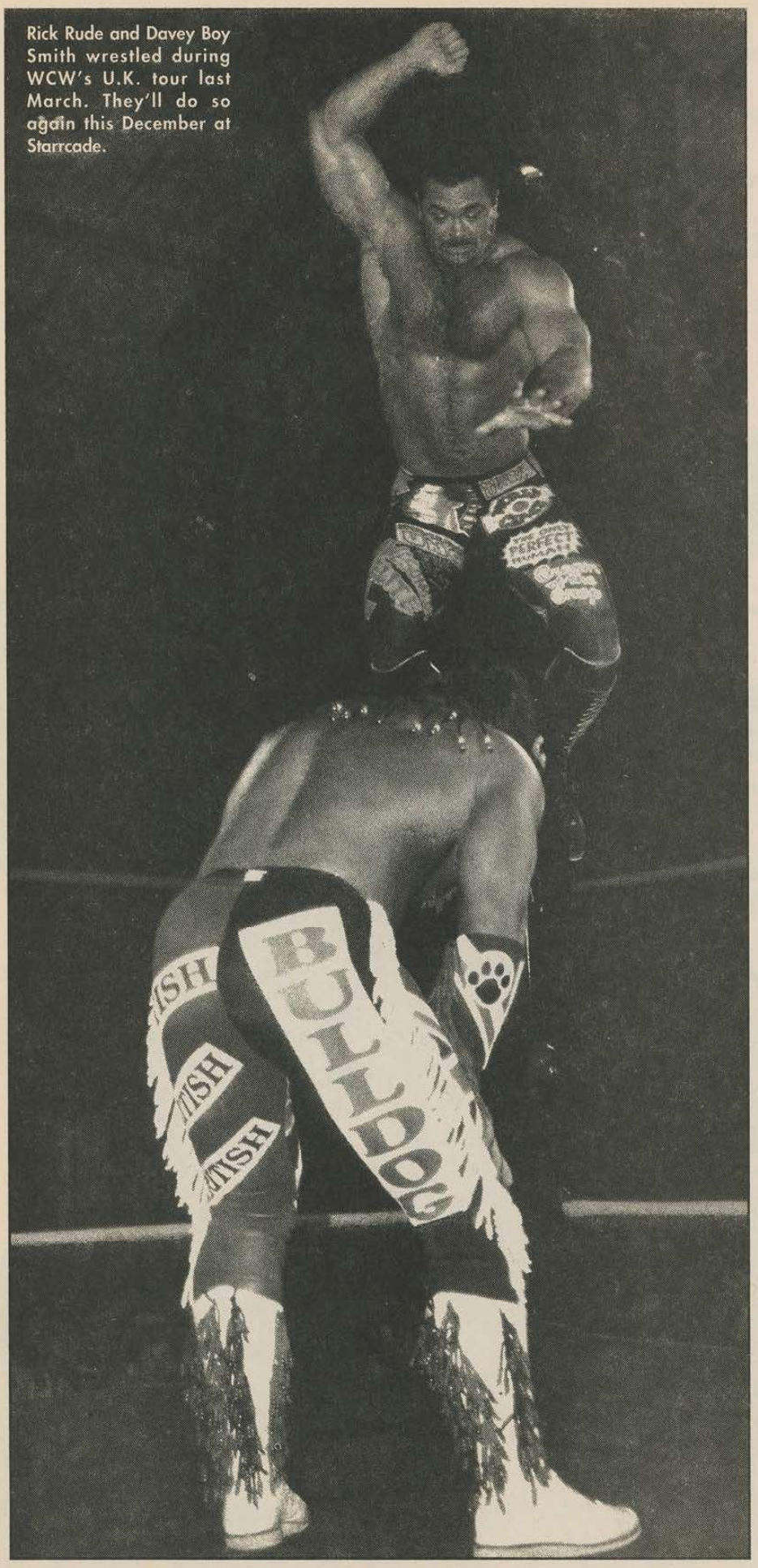
"He's a very talented wrestler," Davey Boy said. "Unfortunately, he doesn't have an ounce of courage in his body."

Rude also wondered what it would be like to wrestle Davey Boy Smith. It was a challenge he, too, looked forward to.

But he, too, was disappointed.

"Smith's a second-rate wrestler," Rude said. "I was disappointed because I expected something special."

Davey Boy and Rude, arch-rivals who had never met, finally wrestled each other during WCW's tour of Great Britain last March. They wrestled on March 11 in London, March 14 in Aberdeen, Scotland, and March 16 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Davey Boy



Rick Rude and Davey Boy Smith wrestled during WCW's U.K. tour last March. They'll do so again this December at Starrcade.

won all three matches by disqualification.

When they finally locked up on American turf in Harrisonburg, Virginia, Davey Boy again won by disqualification.

"I feel like I wasted my energy four straight times," Davey Boy said. "I thought Rude would fight me like a man, but he's nothing but a coward."

Nonetheless, Davey Boy looked forward to wrestling Rude again in an important match with a belt on the line. He'll finally get that chance at Starrcade '93, when he goes after Rude's title.

"This time," Davey Boy said, "Rude won't get away. There's nothing I hate more than a man who runs from his battles."

WE INTERRUPT THIS STORY ...

... to bring you a special bulletin and clarification.

Attention! The belt Rude won from Ric Flair at Fall Brawl '93 is no longer recognized by the official WCW sanctioning board!

The WCW International Board, however, *is* recognizing the belt as a "world title." Lawyers have met for hours to clear up this mess, but at press time WCW was not recognizing Rude vs. Davey Boy as a title match. The International Board, which is comprised of several promoters, will honor the results of the match. If Smith wins by pinfall, he gets the belt.

"It's all very confusing," Davey Boy said. "A lot of bureaucracy is at work here. I'm just going to get into that ring and wrestle. It doesn't matter to me. I just want to beat Rude."

ANOTHER REASON DAVEY BOY HATES RUDE

Sting removed his kneepad and delicately rolled up his pantleg. He had a point to make. The "Stinger," sitting on a stool in front of his locker at Atlanta's Center Stage Theater, motioned the reporter closer and pointed to a scar on his left knee.

It wasn't a particularly large scar, nor was it particularly unsightly. But it obviously had special meaning to Sting.

He could name time, date, and place.

"November 19, 1991. Savannah, Georgia," Sting said, his voice neither dropping nor rising. "It was Rude's fault."

The injury itself, though severe at the time, isn't what makes this particular scar so memorable for Sting. What the injury led to makes November 19, 1991, a day that will live in infamy for Sting and his fans.

Sting was scheduled to defend the U.S. title against Rude at Clash of the Champions XVII, but almost didn't make it into the ring. Early in the card, Paul E. Dangerously—Rude's manager at the time—engineered a brutal attack on Sting's knee. The "Stinger" was rushed to a nearby medical facility, where he subsequently left his sickbed and returned to the arena to defend the belt so that he wouldn't have to forfeit it to Rude.

"There was no way I was staying in that hospital, and I didn't care *what* the doctors said," Sting said. "Maybe it was a mistake, but at least I went down with my pride."

The ruthless Rude concentrated his offense on Sting's injured knee. Despite an heroic performance by the "Stinger," Rude won the belt that night.

"I know all about what happened that night," Davey Boy said. "In fact, Sting has detailed the story to me a few times, and it never fails to get my goat. You know, when I came to WCW earlier this year, I didn't really know too many of the wrestlers, but Sting took me under his wing. He was a friend when I didn't have too many friends around.

"What Rude did to Sting is consistent with everything I've seen of that farce," Davey Boy continued, "and any enemy of Sting's is an enemy of mine. I know I'm going to have to watch my back from now until Starrcade. Rude has absolutely no pride."

ANOTHER REASON RUDE HATES DAVEY BOY

WCW had a few precious nights in London last March, and Rude wanted some local color. Unfortunately, the line at Electric Hollywood, the chic new rock 'n' roll restaurant in Piccadilly Circus, wound out the door and down two blocks.

Rude tried to use his influence to cut in front of the line.

"Don't you know who I am?" Rude screamed at the maitre d'.

"I know who you are," the man politely replied.

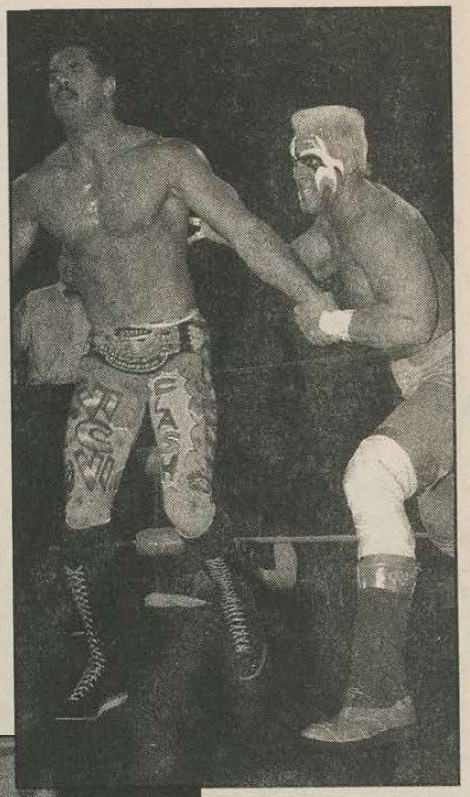
"Well, where's my table?" Rude yelled.

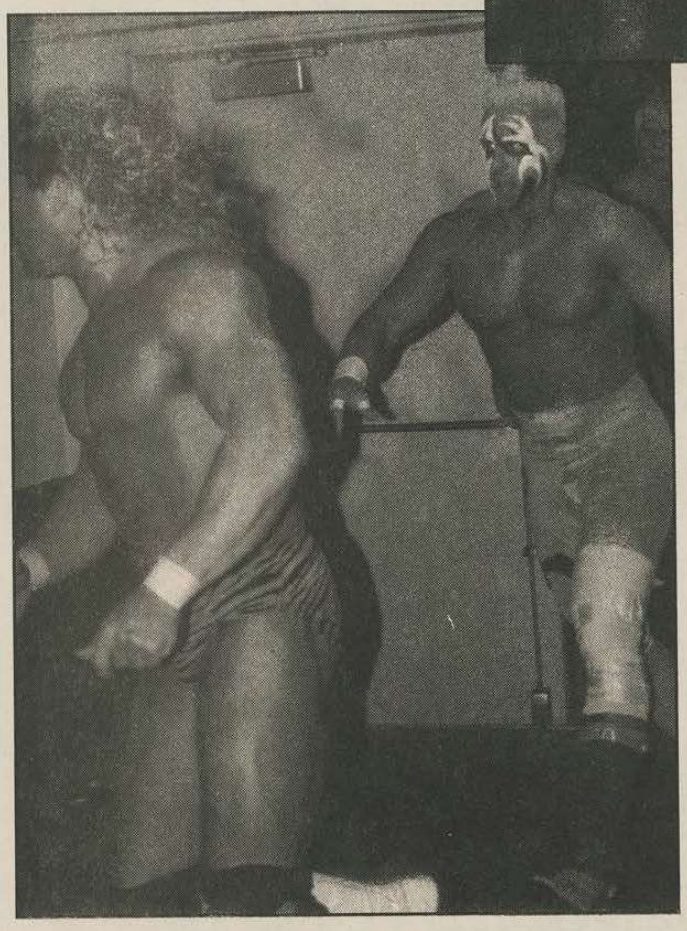
"I'm sorry, Mr. Rude, but we don't have any."

Rude left the restaurant and went looking for another place to eat. He hadn't walked two steps when the line at Electric Hollywood parted as if a celebrity had arrived. It was Davey Boy. The maitre d' was at the door to greet him. The people on line politely applauded the "British Bulldog."

"Mr. Smith," the maitre d' said. "Your table is waiting."

Mr. Rude, your chance for revenge has arrived. ◆





In November 1991, at Clash of the Champions XVII, Sting returned from his hospital sickbed (left) to battle Rick Rude (above). The match ended with Rude capturing Sting's U.S. heavyweight title—and helped fuel Davey Boy's hatred for Rude.

MAXX PAYNE

STILL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE CHEERS

MAXX PAYNE EXTENDED HIS HAND TO JOHNNY B. BADD AND NOW THE FANS ARE SUDDENLY CHEERING FOR ONE OF THE MOST UNUSUAL CHARACTERS IN WCW HISTORY. ENJOY IT WHILE IT LASTS, BECAUSE PAYNE MAKES NO GUARANTEES ABOUT HIS FUTURE

By Dave Rosenbaum

Listen up! Johnny B. Badd has something to say, and he wants all of you out there to hear it!

"I was as shocked as the rest of you people when Maxx Payne extended his hand to me," Badd said. "And I'm the last one who's going to forget the time he blasted me with my 'Badd blaster.' But there comes a time when you just have to believe that what's coming out of a man's mouth is coming from his heart. I just *have* to believe that!"

Badd, like just about every person who has ever heard, sometimes doesn't know *what's* coming out of Payne's mouth! The brilliant but psychotic Payne speaks in tongues, refers to his home as his "lair," and has a fascination with all things (normally and abnormally) psychological, and a few things occult.

Just months ago, Payne took great pleasure in the pain he inflicted on opponents. He still does, but his opponents are no longer the same people.

"It's like I always said, just when you think you have me figured out, I'm going to change the rules," Payne said. "Look once, look twice, then look again. Things aren't always what they may seem. Who knows if what you're seeing now is reality or illusion? Does anybody know the difference?"

The fans think they know. Their jeers for Payne have turned to cheers, and their morbid fascination with Payne has turned to respect and admiration. All this because Payne helped out Badd, his former arch-rival, in a match against Paul Orndorff.

Badd didn't know how to react when Payne offered his hand in friendship. He glanced around for help, looking dazed and confused, but then Badd saw the gleam in Payne's eyes and realized the offer was serious.

"What would *you* have done? What would *any* thinking man have done?" Badd said. "After all that Maxx has done to me and other wrestlers, only a stupid person wouldn't have been careful. For all I knew, he was going to blast me again."

The wrestling world looked on in shock as Badd and Payne shook hands. Payne heard an unusual sound when he

ESP

returned to the dressing room that night: The fans were cheering for him!

Strangely—or maybe not so strangely, considering the subject—Payne wasn't fazed by the fans' reaction.

"I cannot concern myself with the opinions of the majority," Payne said. "I can deal only with reality and the image of reality. The fans are merely spectators to ongoing events which are not affected by their peculiarities. If they wish to cheer me, fine. It doesn't matter."

Payne resists the labels "fan favorite" and "rulebreaker." In fact, he resists all labels. Payne says a man doesn't change, only the image of him changes, and that's why you can't believe everything you see. Or *think* you see.

The following line of questioning was recently put to Payne:

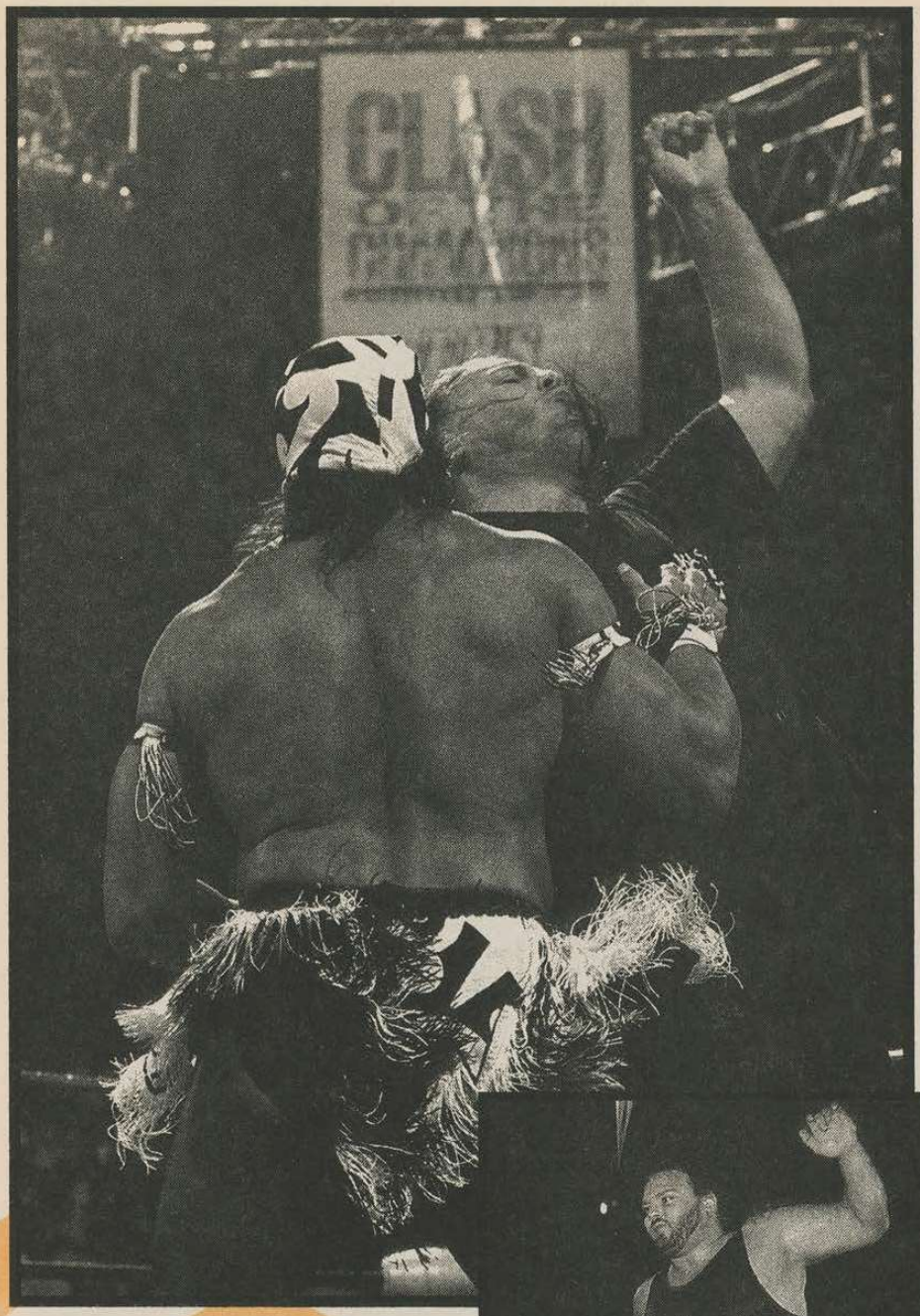
Q: You once said wrestling is an entertainment for you.

A: It is.

Q: You also said you're not in it to win. You're in it to hurt people.

A: That's right. Right now I'm in it to hurt Orndorff. Once I was in it to hurt Badd.

Q: So you still get the most pleasure



Maxx Payne takes a chop in the chest from Johnny B. Badd, who says he's as surprised as anyone by Payne's new attitude.

Payne (backdropping Michael Hayes) says his ring style won't change at all. Today. But tomorrow may be another story!

out of dishing out pain?

A: Absolutely. It's what I live for.

See? The fans can't change Payne. Neither can Johnny B. Badd. If people want to like Payne, that's fine, but he doesn't take responsibility for the possibility that their feelings might get hurt, or that Badd will once again get blasted by his own "Badd blaster."

"It's all in the stars," Payne said. "We cannot control the future. Think about this: People go through changes in their lives, but they're not physical changes. They're mental and philosophical changes. They're not really changing, they're simply developing."

Has Payne developed?

"I'm not sure *what's* going on," Badd said. "I've tried to talk to him about this, but it's very difficult. It's almost like trusting a dog that you know could bite you at any time."

Badd has been bitten. His face was badly scarred by the "Badd blaster" Payne stole from him prior to Clash of the Champions XXIII last June. Badd wore a black mask during the weeks preceding Beach Blast.

"That was an expression of sadness," Badd said. "I wanted Payne to know he's not the only one with a dark side."

Surely, Badd knows he can never enter Payne's world. The fans must also realize this is one athlete they can't get too close to. Maxx won't allow anyone into his private world. He once allowed a reporter to interview him in his "lair," but never extended another invitation.

"It makes me uncomfortable when people try to look too far inside of me," Payne said. "I don't like answering to others because they're always asking the wrong questions. What you see now is what you get now. Don't ask about later."

There are no guarantees with Maxx Payne.

Never have been.

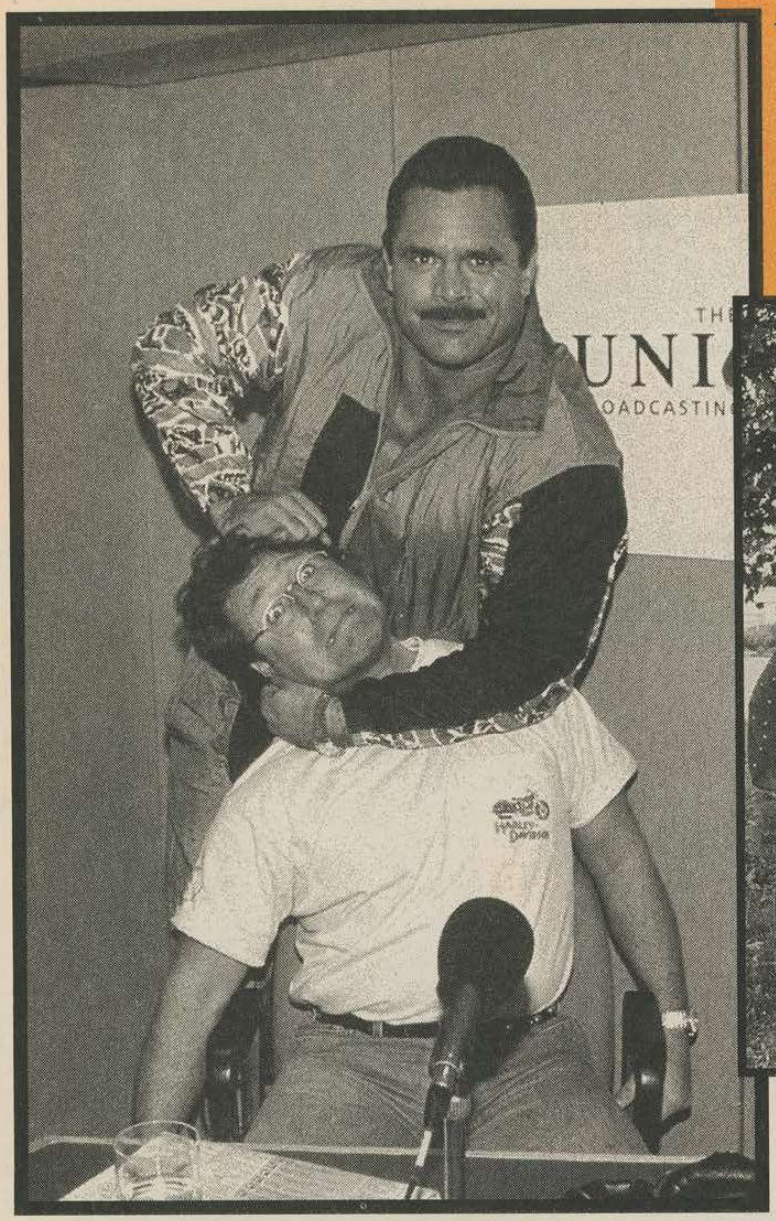
Never will be. ◆

Payne has always been something of a free thinker, so there are no guarantees as to how long the cheers for him may last. He could be hated again a week from now or a year from now.

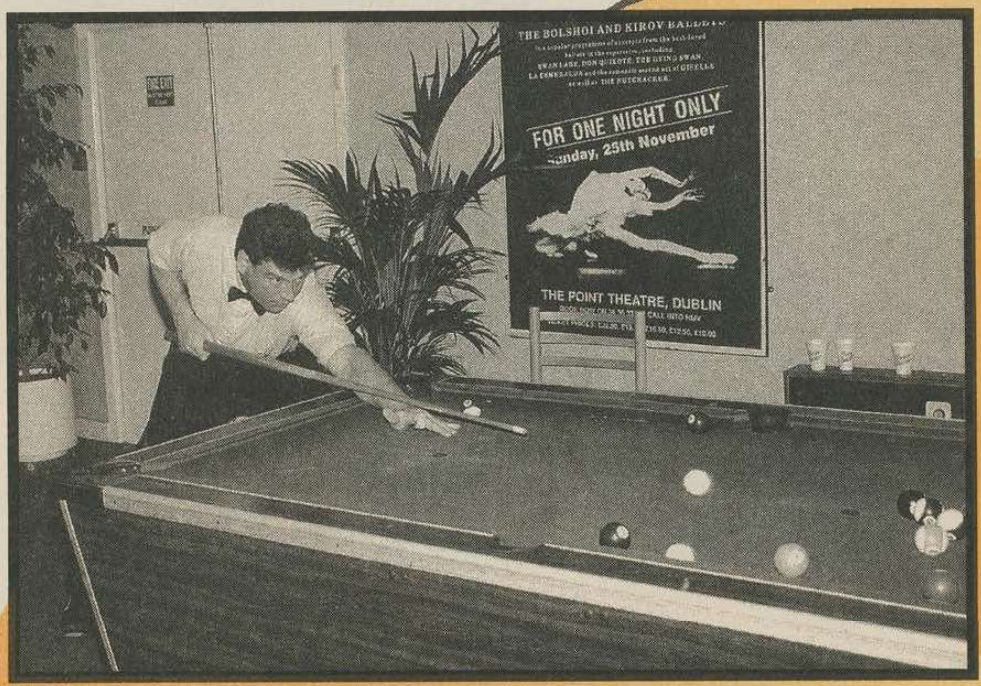
Out & About

▲ Eric Bischoff holds up the ring robe of top-rated heavyweight boxer Evander Holyfield during an auction of celebrity items to benefit the Georgia Alliance For Children. "I've been active with GAFC for years," Bischoff said, "and I'm always happy to spend a little time as guest auctioneer."

▼ Teddy Long, who's currently serving as manager and adviser to 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell, poses with rhythm & blues legend James Brown. Perhaps Long gleaned a few tips for his charges: Having seen Brown's stage show several times over the years, we suspect that Brown could teach even 2 Cold a few new moves!

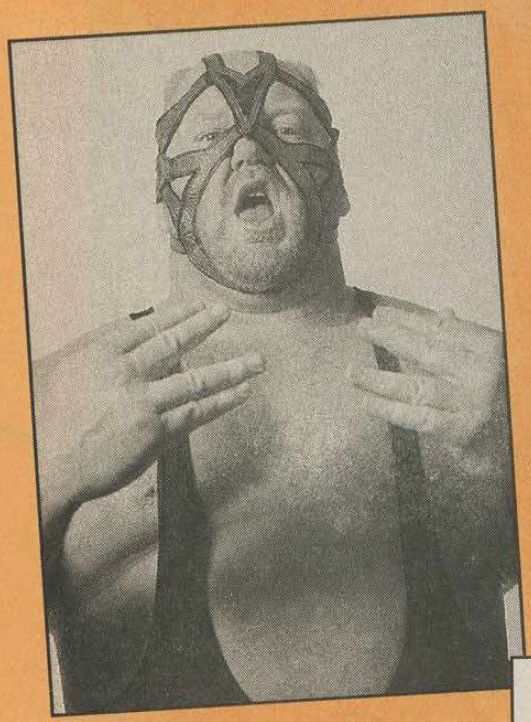


Several weeks before WCW's most recent tour of the U.K., Rick Rude traveled to the U.K. for a promotional tour that included a radio appearance with popular DJ Neil Fox (left) and the taping of some footage for the highly rated *Big Breakfast Show* (below). "I don't mind showing off my greatness to anyone," Rude said of his participation on the tour, "but my guess, considering most U.K. fans I've met, is that I'm casting pearls before swine. And swine they are, believe me!"



Even WCW's referees need a break from the action once in a while, which is what Nick Patrick took in Dublin recently by shooting a few games of pool. "Rick Rude is a good player," Patrick told us. "He keeps trying to sandbag me into wagering with him, but I know better. Besides, I'm only a fair player at best!" And fairness is all we ask from a referee.

Viewpoints

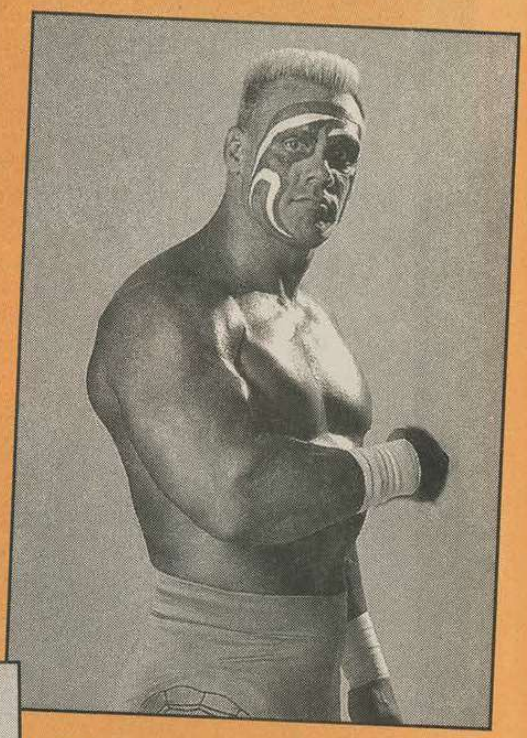


"Cactus Jack is a maggot, a worthless slug, a piece of human protoplasm who doesn't have the sense to know when he's staring utter and complete devastation square in the face. I nearly destroyed him once with a power bomb on concrete, and I almost did it again at Halloween Havoc. Believe me when I tell you: I'm not through with him yet! Not by a longshot!"

—Vader

"There's a great deal to admire in Cactus Jack, and I'm not just saying this because he said some nice things about me in 'Viewpoints' a few months back. Cactus has shown by his ability to come back against Vader, by his incredible effort at Halloween Havoc, by his very nature, that he has a complete understanding of the psychology of wrestling like none other."

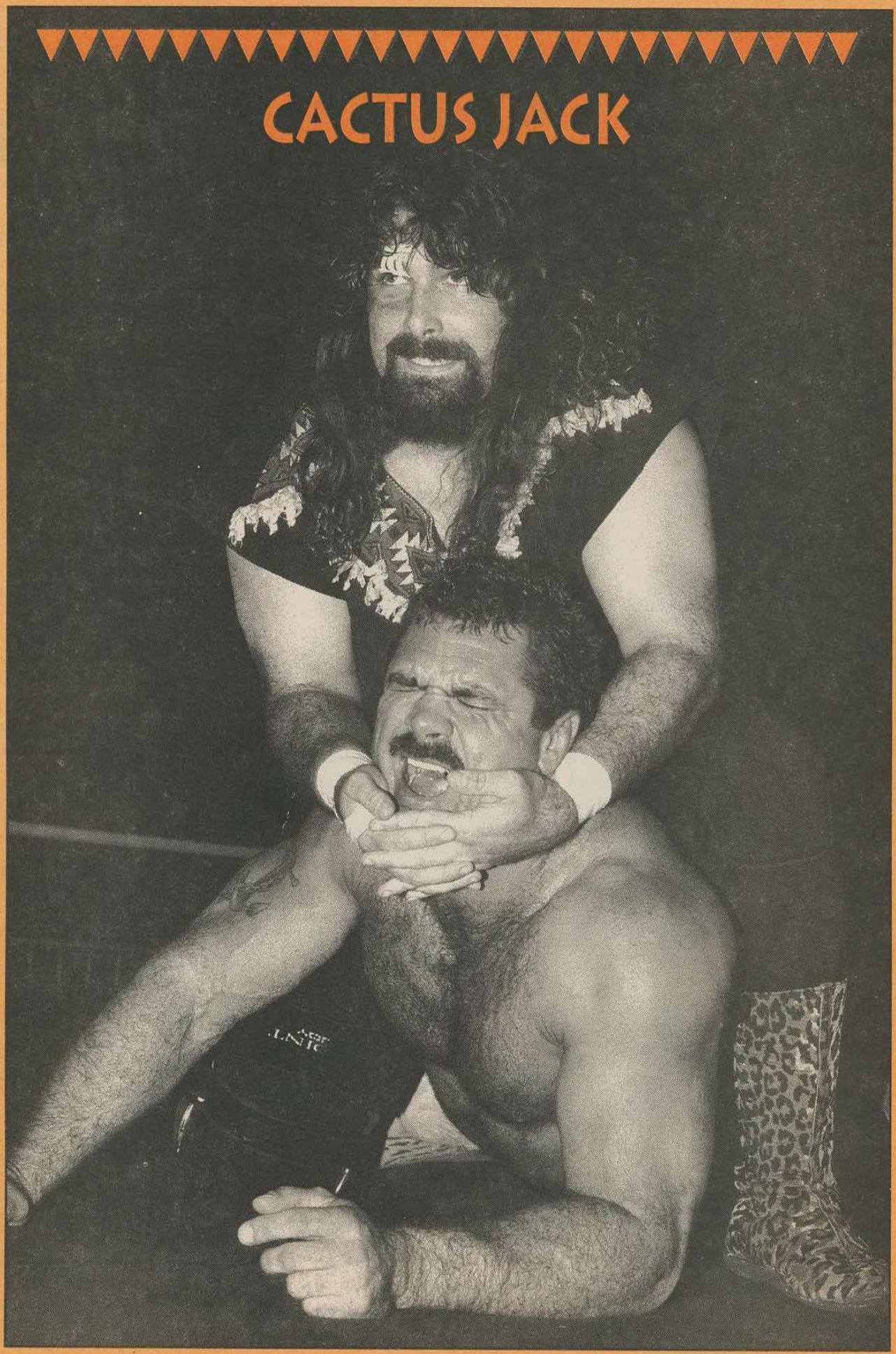
—Maxx Payne



"You can say whatever you want about his personality, but don't ever say that Cactus Jack isn't a determined competitor. I've wrestled him several times over the past couple of years, and he's always amazed me with his willingness to put his own physical well-being on the line in order to win a match. He's one man who goes to the extreme—and beyond—to score a victory."

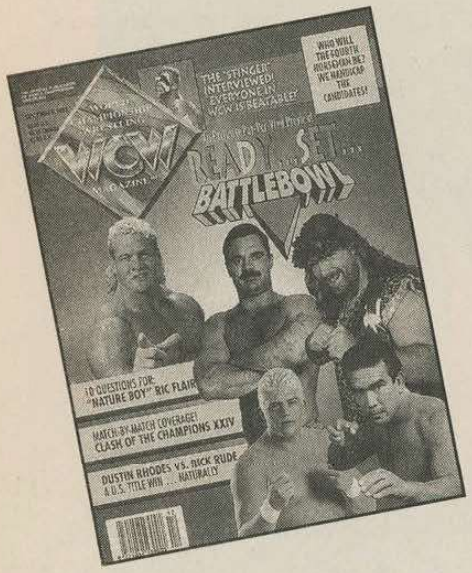
—Sting

CACTUS JACK



Fan Jam

Send letters to "Fan Jam" c/o WCW MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 956, Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, 19034. All letters are subject to editing for length and clarity. Letters to WCW wrestlers should be addressed to the particular wrestler in care of: World Championship Wrestling, One CNN Center, P.O. Box 740124, Atlanta, Georgia, 30374



DECEMBER DIALOGUE

One of the things I like best about WCW MAGAZINE are the pay-per-view previews that are done. And I just want to say that the Battlebowl preview in your December issue was one of the best yet. Thanks, and keep up the good work!

◆ ED FLANDERS
Atlanta, Georgia

Thank you so much for your feature on the new stars of WCW ("Special Section: WCW's New Faces—Veterans Analyze How Five Newcomers Stack Up"). Not only did you assemble complete information about each of the five athletes you profiled, you got WCW's greatest stars to speak out on these men and give candid opinions on their chances of success in WCW. Super, simply super.

I have one complaint about the feature, though: Rude is completely wrong about Equalizer. The toughest man ever to step through the ropes? Ha! Missy Hyatt was right: He looks like David Crosby gone to seed!

◆ JEFF HALSEY
Los Angeles, California

One of my favorite parts of WCW MAGAZINE is "Fan Fun Corner." I'm not a good artist, but I really like seeing what other fans can do. Some of those drawings are just terrific!

◆ JOHN HART
Detroit, Michigan

Great interview with the "Stinger" in your December issue. As far as I'm concerned, you could interview him *every* issue, and I'd be just thrilled about it!

◆ DONNA CARSON
Rockville, Maryland

TAG TEAM WORDS TO LIVE BY

This is for 2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell:

Keep up the good work! Keep your minds strong and *positive.* Keep your bodies fit and nourished. I know that you two are true champions, because you are climbing the ladder gracefully. Yes, you had your losses,

2 Cold Scorpio and Marcus Alexander Bagwell are the recipients of some inspirational words from reader Donna Miller.

most of them were due to cheating from the other team. Learn from those losses. This will make your minds strong—and your bodies, as well. You have your honor. You go into a fight and give it your best shot. How many teams can you say have that in their favor? Not many. If you remember anything about this letter, please make these your words to go by:

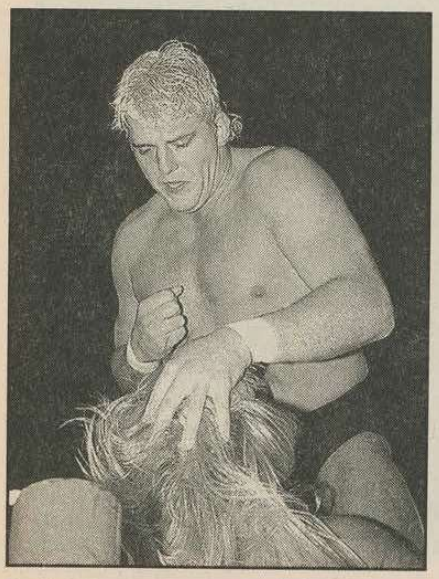
Build true confidence through knowledge in the mind, honesty in the heart, and strength in the body. Develop yourself in a positive manner. Develop self-discipline. Use what you learn, constructively and defensively. Be motivated and dedicated. Develop might for right. You are on a quest to be your best!

You will *always* be the stars of WCW!

◆ DONNA MILLER
Weirton, West Virginia

"NATURAL" COURAGE

I think Dustin Rhodes has shown tremendous courage in WCW for the last two years. He suffered a broken left wrist last December, wrestled in War Games with bruised right ribs,



Dustin Rhodes is a model of decency and determination for all, says Heather Cook.

and most of all he's stood proud through all of this.

I was at Clash of the Champions last November 18, 1992, and I saw him take that beating from Barry Windham. Dustin may be a lot like "The American Dream," but one thing stands out: He's his own man.

As for what Jesse Ventura has said about "The Natural," that's uncalled for. Dustin is devoted to his fans, and I'm a real big fan of his. He's a natural athlete. Rick Rude and everyone else can say what they want about him, but this man can talk right back and back up his words with actions. They can count on that!

◆ HEATHER COOK
Vidalia, Georgia

MAKE UP YOUR MIND, RICK!

I don't get it. First Rick Rude says hate's just fine for him, and now he asks why we boo him ("Rick Rude Fights Back! 'How Can The Fans Boo Me?'" November 1993).

Maybe if Rude tried getting along with the fans and not acting like he's better than everybody, we might change our minds. But Rude needs to make up *his* mind, first: Does he want cheers or not?

◆ KRIS FANNIN
Tomahawk, Kentucky

...AND STILL MORE ON MISSY!

Keep Missy Hyatt's column!

I think Missy Hyatt is the greatest! Since she manages the World tag team champions, I want to say "congratulations" to Missy—who got the last laugh on Ric Flair!

Missy Hyatt is the First Lady of WCW—and much more beautiful than Fifi!

◆ JIM LANGDON
Lake Forest, Illinois

I know pro wrestling is a virtual mecca of schizophrenics, but does anyone change their point of view as often as Missy Hyatt? She's entertaining (or something!) for sure, but we're talking *zero* consistency here!

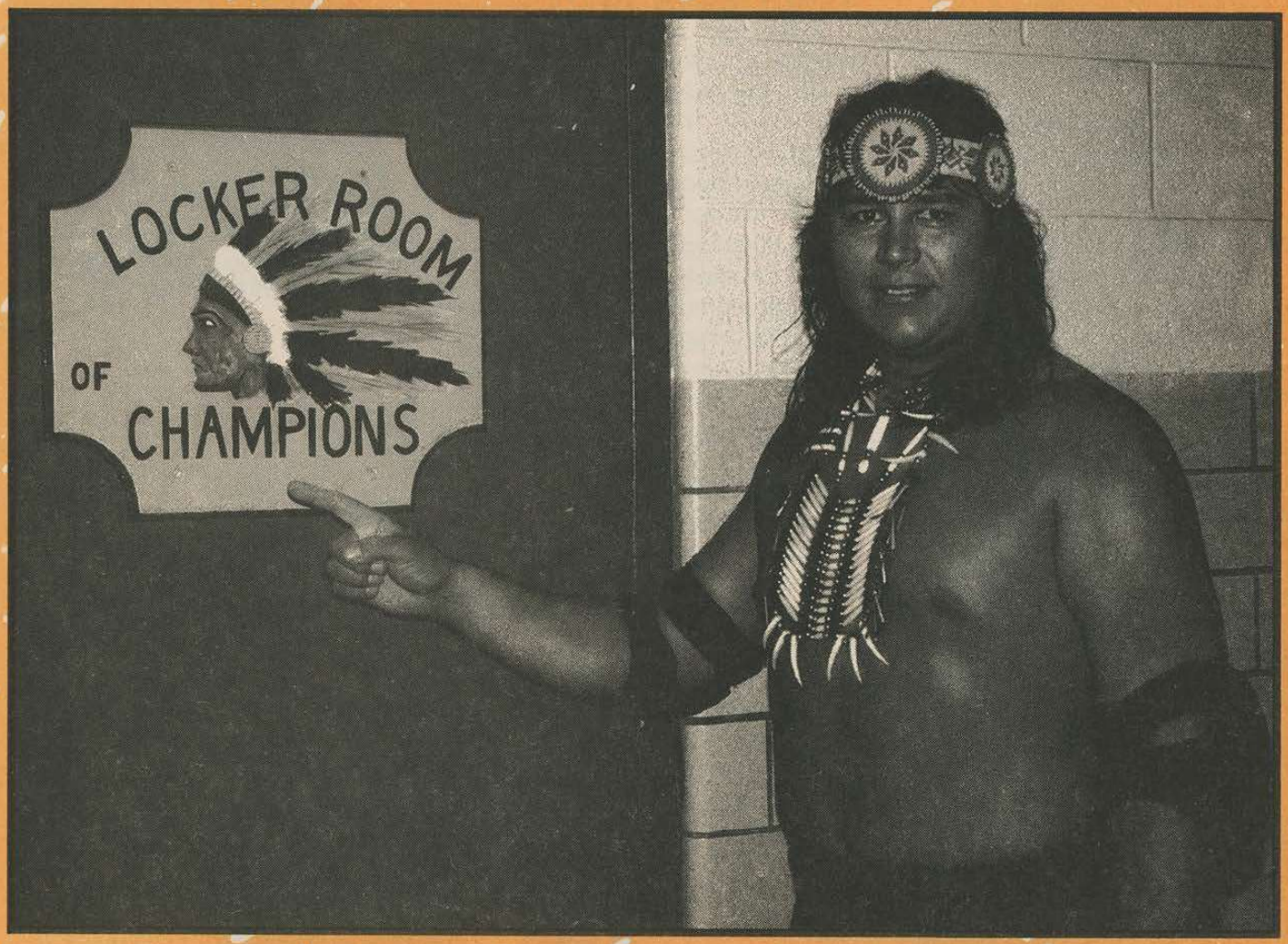
Is she still mad at Ric Flair for snubbing her? Well, in the November issue, she said Flair's still the man—belt or not. She also says, "Those Nasty Boys ought to calm down." Yet at Fall Brawl, she was anything but calmed down! Dressed to kill and managing the Nastys, she said Flair screwed up and the Horsemen were going down—which they did.

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned? Yes, but Missy Hyatt's the most confusing woman ever born!

◆ K.C. DARKHARTE
Biloxi, Mississippi

Our readers have more to say about Missy Hyatt, it seems, than about any other subject in WCW!

Parting Shot



The power of positive thinking: Charlie Norris has a sign that he often brings to the arena to hang on his dressing room door. "If you think like a champion, you will wrestle like a champion," Norris said. And, perhaps, one day even *be* a champion!

DON'T GET STUNG!

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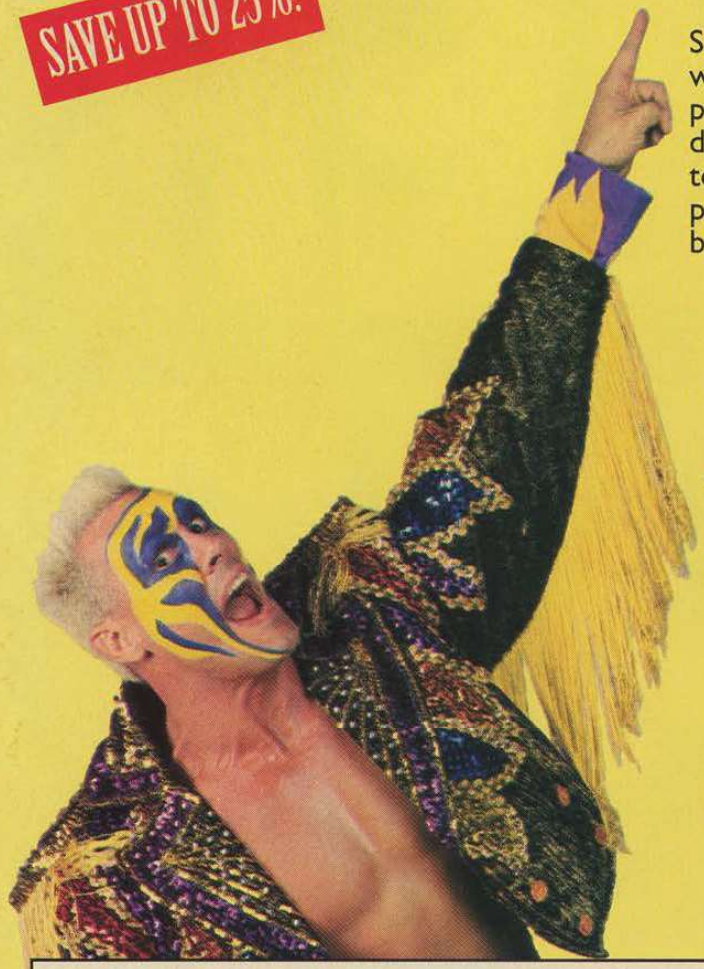

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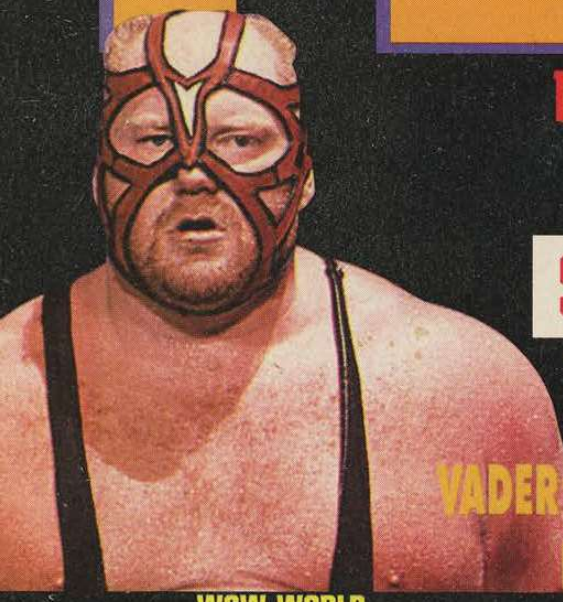

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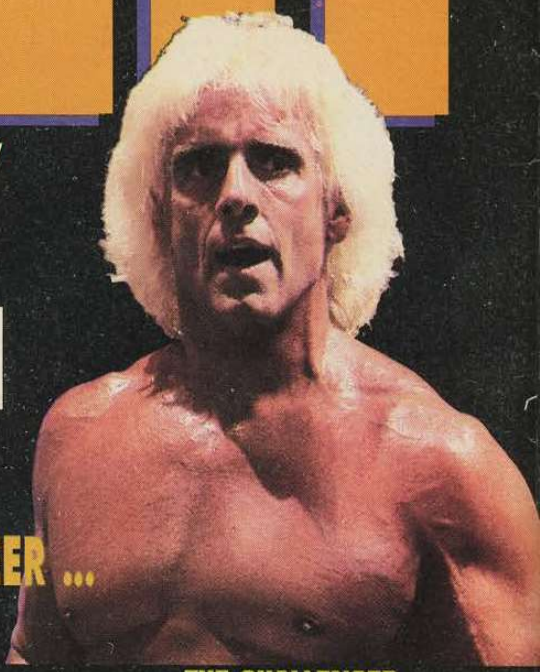

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